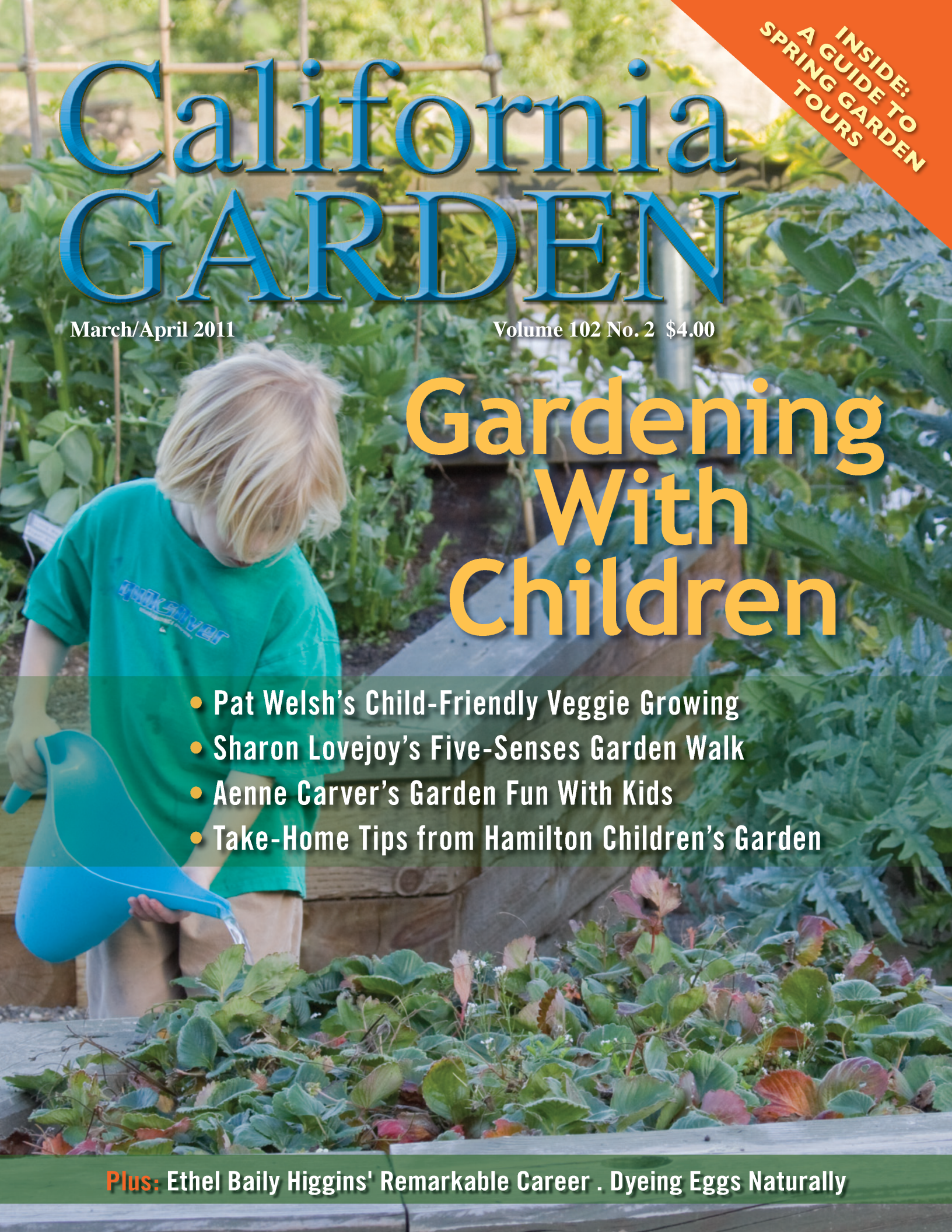
California GARDEN

INSIDE: A GUIDE TO SPRING GARDEN TOURS

March/April 2011 Volume 102 No. 2 $4.00



Gardening With Children

- Pat Welsh's Child-Friendly Veggie Growing
- Sharon Lovejoy's Five-Senses Garden Walk
- Aenne Carver's Garden Fun With Kids
- Take-Home Tips from Hamilton Children's Garden

Plus: Ethel Baily Higgins' Remarkable Career . Dyeing Eggs Naturally

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We are happy to announce that Susan Belsinger will be our honored guest at this year's Herb Festival. Susan is a culinary herbalist, educator, food writer, and photographer whose articles and photographs have been widely published. She has co-authored several best-selling, award-winning cookbooks. Another book, *the creative herbal home*, co-authored with Tina Marie Wilcox, is the second in the living with herbs series published by herbspirit. Susan will give a program each day at 1 PM.

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San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS
March/April 2011, Volume 102, Number 2

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Now is the Time contributors

A visitor to the Hamilton Children's Garden at the San Diego Botanic Garden learns about nature, plants and gardening in a fun-filled, educational environment. Photo by Rachel Cobb

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President's Letter

Reading *California Garden* may be good for your health, but an even better pursuit will be getting outside into your garden for a few hours and using some of the skills that you learn here.

Did you know that gardening has been shown to be good for your mental health? If worry and woe seem to be your constant companions of late, counteract this heavy side of life by spending time in your garden, even if your primary effort is with just the pots on your patio. Even a short time spent tending plants helps to tone and strengthen you, as well as lift your spirits.

Studies at Iowa State University found that the acts of pruning, digging and mulching often alleviate the tensions we feel. The experience of lovely hues, scents and textures tends to feed our souls in a way that nothing else does. Watching seeds and cuttings grow gives us a sense of hope for the future that brings feeling of hope and optimism into our daily lives.

On its webs site, *Nursing Times* describes gardening as a therapeutic intervention in mental health: "There appears to be an intrinsic relationship between gardening and hope. The very action of planting a seed in the soil requires hope; by encouraging and in some senses almost imposing a sense of hope on to someone, a personal journey may begin."

It is my hope that as 2011 really gets started for you, that you will make a deliberate plan to read our magazine and then schedule regular time in your garden. Do this, not only because you enjoy it, but also because you are confident it will infuse you with hope for the future.

Let your gardening journey begin! Join us on March 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Zorro Gardens for the "Joy of Butterflies," part of Family Science Day in Balboa Park and again on April 19 for our Member's meeting. In between, enjoy this issue of *California Garden* devoted to one of the most joyful times in the garden—sharing our passion, knowledge and love with children, who indeed are our hope for the future.

Sandra Dysart

Sandra N. Dysart

Photo: Rachel Cobb

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

SPRING CLASSES

LEARN TO STYLE BEAUTIFUL WEDDING BOUQUETS

APRIL 19
Wedding Flower Arranging Workshop: Bridal Bouquets

A workshop and demonstration on making hand-tied, classic round and cascade-style bouquets. For beginners. Bring flowers, greens and a flower knife. Other materials provided for a materials fee of $7.

Instructor: Lucy Kramer
A native of Mexico, Lucy Kramer lived in northern Virginia for 24 years before moving to San Diego nine years ago. She learned flower-arranging from her Virginia garden club mentors and in classes throughout the Washington, D.C. area. A SDFA member, she also is a life member of the Virginia Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs Inc. She is the owner of "Simple Flowers," a wedding and special events flower service operated from her Mission Hills home.

Cost: $16 ($12 for SDFA members)

All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers.

To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes are limited to 10 people and must be prepaid.

Call the Floral Association office weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 619-232-5762 for more information about SDFA workshops.

April 19 Meeting

Gary Bulman on Miniature Roses

Roses, a favorite of flower lovers the world over, is the subject at the April 19 meeting of the San Diego Floral Association. The evening gathering will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Members and friends are invited to attend.

Gary Bulman, a consulting rosarian who tends hundred of roses in his Escondido garden, will speak on miniature and mini-flora roses. These flowering gems are a delightful departure from the large bush and climbing roses that dominate rose culture in San Diego. Easy to grow, they can be planted in pots, which are easy to move about, or added to the landscape where they enhance gardens of all styles. They also are the most inexpensive roses if procured in the right way, and Gary will share his sources with the group during the evening.

For more than 30 years, Gary Bulman has been a member of the San Diego Rose Society; he is currently coordinator of all consulting rosarians in San Diego County. He also is a member of the San Diego Master Gardener Association. Gary was bitten by the "rose bug" while living in Poway. His move to his current residence in Escondido brought him closer to work, but, more importantly, allowed him to expand his rose collection. Visitors to the annual Flower and Garden Show at the San Diego County Fair have seen many of his winning roses displayed over the years.

Please put this informative meeting on your calendar. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m.; and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. Reserve a catered dinner ($15 per person) by calling the SDFA office at 619-272-5762. Join us – you will be so glad you did!
–Christie Wright

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Help us keep membership costs down by informing us of your new address promptly.
Fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to:
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Dig in!

News, tips, advice and products you can use

Designer Paula Pryke to Demonstrate Her Floral Artistry in La Jolla

British floral designer Paula Pryke has two gifts – an artistic eye and the ability to recognize beauty in nature. Both have combined to make her one of England's top designers, in demand with five-star hotels, international corporations and much-watched Royals.

On April 7, Pryke will present a lecture and floral demonstration for this year's "Meet the Masters" program sponsored by the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. The program is at 1:30 p.m. in Sherwood Auditorium of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla.

The annual program is designed to "highlight excellence in floral design and to encourage individuals and communities to value the garden and what it grows," says Dr. Nan Kaufman, Village Garden Club president. "Paula Pryke is an incredible floral designer whose work is admired and sought after in many countries. Being able to list The Flower School, established by Paula in 1994, is key to many a prominent floral designer's resume."

In addition to teaching, Pryke is the author of 14 books that reveal her diversity as a designer. Her latest is *The Ultimate Floral Collection: A Celebration of Floral Design*. Her writing also appears in numerous magazines.

Her creations are sought after by fashion houses, including Chanel, as well as private clients and celebrities such as Julia Roberts and Ewan McGregor. In addition, Pryke lectures around the world and guests on TV programs. Her London home also has been featured in design journals.

To learn more, visit www.paula-pryke-flowers.com.

Tickets are $65 and include complementary valet parking and a tea-reception following Pryke's talk. Reservations can be made on the garden club's Web site at www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com. Details for tickets to private reception the evening before Pryke's lecture also are on the Web site. *–Mary James*

Did You Know...?

April 17-23 Officially Native Plant Week

With the urging of the California Native Plant Society, the California State Legislature on September 2, 2010, set aside the third week of April as a time to promote native plant conservation and restoration and to celebrate the iconic, economic, artistic, historical, and environmental value of these plants. The resolution notes that more than 6,000 species and varieties are indigenous to the state and that 2,150 of these species exist only in California, making our state home to more diverse plant life than all other states combined. *– Nancy Carol Carter*

Balboa Park Botanical Tours

On three Saturdays of the month, botanical tours are offered in San Diego's Balboa Park. The tours begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Information office and last for about one hour. These "Offshoot Tours" feature palm trees on the second Saturday of the month, other kinds of trees on the third, and desert vegetation on the fourth Saturday. The first Saturday of the month is a history tour. In months with a fifth Saturday, the tour guide chooses a theme. For other guided walks in the park, find the "Park Information" tab and click on "Tours" at www.balboapark.org. *– Nancy Carol Carter*

The Ergo Gardener

By Kathy Jones

Dig in!

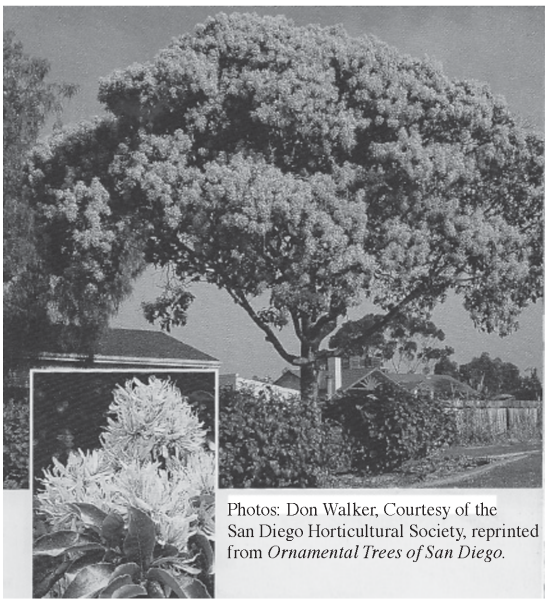
Tip 2: Your Body Doesn't Like Strange Moves

Gardeners may be fairly sedentary most of the time until they get the itch to get out in the yard to clean up, weed or plant. Injuries can result if we expect the body to do a lot that it's not used to (deep knee bends, overstretching to reach a limb, etc.) So, if you're a weekend warrior when it comes to gardening, remember to use movements your body is used to and can handle when you garden. If you can't reach something, get down and move the ladder!

– Kathy Jones, Ph.D., is a retired professor in exercise and wellness. A San Diego Master Gardener for 7 years, she is also a graphic artist and copy writer for local clubs and businesses. She is past president of the Mission Hills Garden Club and the Mission Hills Town Council. She has spent the last six years renovating her own 100-year-old garden to incorporate more drought-tolerant plants.

Trees of Balboa Park:

Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*)



Photos: Don Walker, Courtesy of the San Diego Horticultural Society, reprinted from *Ornamental Trees of San Diego.*

The Cape Chestnut forms a broad crown and can reach heights of 40-70 feet. It is slow growing and rarely blooms when young. The tree is in the citrus family, not the chestnut (but the common name may refer to the beautiful blooms similar to a chestnut tree). The opposite, oval-shaped leaves are 5-6 inches long. The new growth is tomentose (covered in short woolly hairs) and then become glabrous (smooth) as the leaves develop.

Although listed in references as an evergreen, most trees in Balboa Park drop their leaves for a brief period in the winter. In late spring, the flowers form on the ends of the branches and are spectacular panicles that cover the tree with pink and lilac blooms. The trees flower sporadically through the summer and give a basis for the generic name, which is derived from Greek, meaning "beautiful tree." The gray seed pods contain shiny, black seeds. Some African traditions believe that the seeds bring luck and skill in hunting. Cape Chestnuts are growing near the Federal Building, Morley Field and at the Balboa Park Golf Course.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Pulplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications*

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Dig in!

A New Garden Transports Kids Back to the Time of Dinosaurs

Photo: Paul Redeker

What do the Water Conservation Garden and dinosaurs have in common?

Children! Every child, no matter how old, likes dinosaurs.

The Jurassic Garden, the Water Conservation Garden's newest exhibit, is an exciting and kid-friendly garden where children of all ages can explore and learn. The garden, tucked away at the end of the "Children's Trail," focuses on dinosaurs, water and of course plants.

Did you know that some of the plants we have today were around when the dinosaurs lived? Or that the water we drink today was probably first slurped by a dinosaur? Visitors to the Jurassic Garden learn these amazing facts—and many more.

The Jurassic Garden was conceptualized by the Garden's Education Director Laurie Furry and constructed by local teenager Justin Atkins as his Eagle Scout project. With help from his parents and his fellow scouts of Troop 235, construction of the garden got underway in July 2010 and was finished before the end of the year.

Some of the Jurassic Garden's features include a fossil dig pit surrounded by plant species that dinosaurs actually ate. Kids can uncover fossils, compare themselves to life-size dinosaur silhouettes, explore a paleontologists' research hut, step inside life-sized dinosaur foot prints and learn from the interactive signage.

The Water Conservation Garden is located on the campus of Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.thegarden.org. *–Pam Meisner, Programs Assistant, The Water Conservation Garden*

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SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

March Meeting & Garden Tour:

March 14: Green Roofs & Living Walls
San Diego's Eco-Warrior, Jim Mumford, will share his knowledge and expertise about planning, designing, installing and maintaining green roofs and living walls in southern California. Members free, non-members $10.

March 26: Take a Botanical Odyssey Garden Tour
Visit gardens in North County with an amazing diversity of plants: exotic equatorial tropicals, a stunning array of succulents and cacti from around the world, and a wide ranging palette of hardy West Coast natives that add beauty and support our local wildlife. Details at www.sdhortsoc.org/events.htm.

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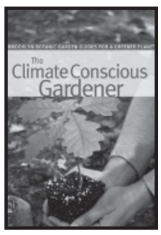


The Climate Conscious Gardener

Edited by Janet Marinelli

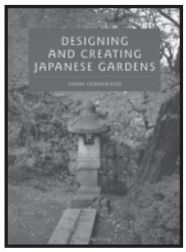
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
$12.95 (Paperback); 120 pages

If ideas on managing your garden and having it fit into the larger neighborhood are important to you—and how could it be otherwise—consider reading this collection presented by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. According to *The New York Times*, it is "a brilliant collection of gardening handbooks." And it's printed with soy ink on post-consumer recycled paper.

After a detailed introduction on climate warming and information on plants in peril because of the climate changes, there are many *gems* to apply in San Diego gardens. There are ways to offset the effects of climate footprints in your garden, such as a checklist for garden construction and renovation, eliminating the use of power tools and a guide to living without a lawn. Additionally, there is a guide to green landscape materials and products.

One particularly interesting section discusses the creation of a no-till garden. Apparently the thrust is to "dispense with digging as much as possible because it damages the soil, and use organic mulches to control weeds, prepare planting beds, and feed the soil organisms that nourish your plants."

This small guide is very readable, and full of specific ideas for wisely enriching your garden experience in a conscientious manner. - *Christie Wright*



Designing and Creating Japanese Gardens

By Penny Underwood

Crowood Press/Trafalgar Square Publishing
$45 (Hardback); 192 pages

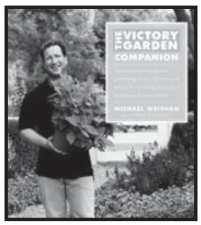
A rock representing a turtle or a tree pruned to suggest clouds – every element in a Japanese garden has symbolic meaning. Drawing on the myths and religious legends of the ancient Chinese, who long ago migrated to the mountainous islands known as Japan, a tradition of landscapes developed that acknowledges humankind's affinity with nature and interprets the natural world through garden design.

Teien is a Japanese word for garden, and it also can be interpreted to mean the contrasting opposites of wildness and control. The basics of Japanese garden design combine this concept with several others, including the interdependence of plants, rocks and water, and *Fusui.* This term, *Fusui,* encompasses a set of rules to guide the placement of elements in the garden to enhance energy flow. For example, there are "the three friends of winter"—conifers to represent long life, flowers and colorful foliage as signs of rebirth and bamboo, as a symbol of strength because it bends without breaking.

This book, with its many beautiful photos, is as much of a total immersion into the history and philosophy of Japanese gardens as a three-week tour. You will find a survey of styles ranging from 8th century ritual sites, to strolling gardens for meditation and 16th century tea gardens. The survey ends with a discussion of modern landscapes that use elements in the garden to symbolize larger geographic features. For example, a stand of trees could symbolize a mountain range.

There are also chapters on design elements, such as plants, water, and hardscape that include teahouses and viewing platforms. The philosophical significance and Japanese terminology for each of the elements are explained, and they are accompanied by detailed how-to descriptions and line drawings. The author, who is a British landscape designer, provides a practical chapter on how to plan and maintain a Japanese garden in the West. The section on maintenance includes explicit instructions for the many distinctive types of pruning used in Japan.

This book is rich in specific information with a special treat at the end: an extensive armchair tour of Japanese gardens with an emphasis on those found in the ancient city of Kyoto.
- *Marge Howard-Jones*



The Victory Garden Companion

By Michael Weisham and Laurie Donnelly

Harper Collins
$29.95 (Hardback); 312 pages

With so many fabulous garden books already in print, Michael Weisham initially questioned the need for one more. However, as the former host of the long-running gardening television program, "The Victory Garden," he recognized the demand for in-depth information on what to do in the garden, as well as how to accomplish the task. Who hasn't pondered the questions of soil content, or the effect of climate when planning a garden? In fact, just trying to decide the size of a new deck or patio can make one long for expert advice.

Although his book is filled with truly gorgeous photos, the author cautions that images are great for inspiration and ideas, but real planning must begin with the realities of each garden's specific site. Topography and climate are two concerns, but equally important is a design that complements the house it surrounds.

Chapters devoted to the ins and outs of such important decisions include many details pertinent to the wide-ranging projects. Discussions of problems with heritage vegetables, zone maps for heat and cold tolerance, before and after garden designs and good and bad landscape examples answer any remaining questions.

Each chapter ends with a photo tour of an "Inspired Garden," ranging from Thomas Jefferson's extensive vegetable garden at Monticello to Thomas Hobbs' colorful backyard in Vancouver.

Beginning gardeners will find this a fantastic resource for guidance and ideas, and experienced gardeners will appreciate the detailed information on the *hows and whys* of particular gardening methods. The author comes from a place with four distinct seasons, but his enthusiastic, informative approach to gardening has universal appeal. –*Marge Howard-Jones*

ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

Ethel Bailey Higgins

Courtesy of San Diego Natural History Museum

On a day in 1900 when the thermometer registered eight below zero, Ethel Bailey and her father left their home in Maine. A year earlier they had vacationed in California and decided to make it their permanent residence. The Baileys settled at a crossroads near the village of Hollywood. Mr. Bailey shrewdly bought property with an artesian well. He was later able to retire on the profits from selling this land.

When Ethel Bailey Higgins reminisced about the unspoiled countryside around her first California home, she recalled horse and buggy rides with her father. They explored Alhambra, the wilderness of the San Fernando Valley, the barren foot of Griffith Peak and the country road called Western Avenue, now a major four-lane street running through Los Angeles. Entranced by the flora of her new home, Higgins wrote that though she was "always a flower lover" in her native New England, she was "almost overcome at the prodigality of the new and strange flowers of California."

Ethel Bailey was born in 1866 in Vassalboro, Maine. Through her father, her lineage traced back to some of the earliest Quaker settlers and entrepreneurs in the Americas. Little is known of her mother except that her Presbyterian faith cost Mr. Bailey his place in the Quaker congregation. At age 20, Ethel Bailey was the youngest graduate of a local college, the Kents Hill School, founded as Maine Wesleyan Seminary. For two years before moving west, she taught high school in Massachusetts.

In California, she turned to photography as a career, first working in the studio of Frank Schmacher before opening her own studio in Hollywood. She began making "plant portraits," and hand-tinting them, developing a portfolio of 250 pictures of native flowers. She ran a small business selling these works. Enlarged copies of these plant photographs were exhibited at San Diego's 1914-15 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park.

In Los Angeles, Ethel Bailey met and married John C. Higgins, an inventor and machinist. They briefly lived in El Centro in the Imperial Valley, but in 1915, moved to San Diego and invested more than $40,000 in a foundry and machine shop. When the stock market crash of 1929 ushered in the Great Depression, the family business and investment were lost. Discouraged and ill, John Higgins died in 1931.

After Ethel Bailey Higgins liquidated assets and paid off all the family debts, she faced widowhood with 14 cents to her name. At 67 years of age, she was alone in the world and in need of a livelihood. Perhaps calling on the steadfastness of her Quaker heritage, Higgins successfully combined her photography skills and plant studies to forge a new life and to launch a long scientific career.

She always had an interest in botany, and over the years intensified her studies in order to identify the flowers she photographed, sometimes asking for expert assistance. Her archived correspondence has reply letters from botanists at the University of California, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Smithsonian Institution. A Stanford University botanist acknowledged receipt of plant specimens and the "beautiful photographs" sent by Higgins and expressed interest in purchasing additional pictures from her native plant portfolio.

"While my interest in cacti is chiefly from the standpoint of making their portraits . . . I have to know something of them and I am trying to learn all I can . . . ," she wrote to botanists at the Smithsonian in 1929. Her photography and botanical research culminated in the small but popular illustrated book, *Our Native Cacti* issued by a New York publisher in 1931. This work undoubtedly brought her to the attention of the San Diego Society of Natural History. Although it cannot be said that the book directly led to her new job, Ethel Bailey Higgins was named curator of botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum in 1933 (some accounts give the date as 1934).

It was late in life for a new start, but Higgins had begun what would become an almost 30-year career at the Natural History Museum. During her years in the botany department as curator and assistant curator, the size of the herbarium grew from 6,000 specimens to a collection of 46,000. She conducted a professional correspondence and specimen trades with other museum botanists. She is believed to have initiated the first accession records for the plant collections. Her brown spiral notebooks of numbered specimen lists still exist. All accession records are today kept on a computerized database. With about 80 percent of the historical records now searchable, Higgins is credited with adding 184 unique items to the herbarium collection from her own plant explorations. From joint collecting trips with museum entomologist Charles F. Harbison, she is associated with an additional 300 accessions.

Higgins offered practical education about plants and was

particularly enthusiastic about the native plants of San Diego. Throughout the 1940s and '50s, she produced various scientific papers and was a frequent contributor to *California Garden*. When the Natural History Museum ramped up its public education programs in the 1950s, Higgins met with classes and student groups at the museum and produced wall charts explaining roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits. She was authorized by the Museum director to spend time writing an introductory botany text, suitable for grade schools. *Lessons About Plants* was reproduced by mimeograph in 51 pages with Higgins' hand-drawn illustrations. It is written in clear simple language and was to be tested at Francis Parker School and developed for wider use. Higgins also wrote an interpretive guide on San Diego desert flowers. This effort grew into the popular *Trails* series which included other Higgins' works such as "Pines and Palms of Balboa Park" and "Chaparral of San Diego County."

In addition to her educational contributions and her place as one of the early women curators at the Museum, Higgins wins lasting horticultural recognition for seminal botanical works on local flora. Botanists did not have a checklist of San Diego County plants until Ethel Bailey Higgins undertook the important, if tedious, work of compilation represented in her "Annotated Distributional List of the Ferns and Flowering Plants of San Diego County, California," *Occasional Papers of the San Diego Society of Natural History*. No. 8, November 1949 and "Type Localities of Vascular Plants in San Diego County, California," *Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History*, XII, No. 22, pp. 347-406, July 22, 1959.

Such lists are more useful if "vouchered,," that is, if an accession number of the herbarium-type specimen is included. Higgins explained that when a new species of plant is discovered and named, one specimen is designated the "type specimen." All later botanical work relating to the plant must, if possible, reference this specimen. Type specimens for San Diego plants may be deposited in a local herbarium, or in another state or country. The location and accession number of the representative herbarium specimen is the "voucher."

While botanists long recognized the need to update Higgins' work, it was not until 1986 that R. Mitchel Beauchamp published *A Flora of San Diego County, California* (National City: Sweetwater River Press) after 15 years of work on the project. The most recent iteration, including new species and revised nomenclature, is by Jon P. Rebman and Michael G. Simpson, *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County*, 4th ed. (San Diego: San Diego Natural History Museum, 2006).

During her years at the Natural History Museum, Ethel Bailey Higgins was something of a favorite with the local press. A tongue-in-cheek article in 1953 reported her complaint that the police beat her to every specimen of marijuana she tried to collect for the herbarium. The *San Diego Union* and the *Tribune* wrote about the ways that Higgins "ignored" her age to carry on an active life. When 89 she enrolled in evening German classes because some important botanical works appeared only in that language. She was working a regular 40-hour week when the museum staff surprised her with a 90th birthday luncheon. In that year she bought a loom and took up weaving. When 91 she spent two weeks in Baja, her fifth plant exploring trip to Mexico. At age 93 the Natural History Society published her paper on San Diego native plants and in 1961, when 95, Higgins traveled to her girlhood home in Maine, to be celebrated as the oldest alumna of Kents Hill School. She was honored on the 75th anniversary of her graduation.

The newspaper reported in 1962 that San Diego's "number one career girl" had asked to retire from the Museum on her 96th birthday. Higgins continued to work for a few days each week, laboring on a history of botanical exploration and plants of Baja California. Although she had conducted extensive research and accumulated a great deal of documentation, this project was not completed when she died on March 9, 1963.

Known as energetic and fearless, the indomitable Ethel Bailey Higgins revealed her secret for a long and productive life as "having a lively curiosity and a sense of humor." Other qualities advanced her unique contributions to San Diego botanical science. She was a life-long learner able to identify scientifically significant projects and to doggedly persist in the years of labor-intensive work needed to accomplish them.

–Nancy Carol Carter is a San Diego Floral Association volunteer with a special interest in horticultural history. She also is associate editor of this magazine.

Ethel Phoebe Bailey Higgins

Botanical writer, plant explorer, Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum, compiler of the first scientific checklists of San Diego plants, San Diego Floral Association Honorary Life Member.

Born: Vassalboro, Maine, August 10, 1866
Died: San Diego, March 9, 1963

DIG DEEPER WITH:

- Alice M. Clark: "Meet Ethel Bailey Higgins," *California Garden* 42:2 (Summer 1951).
- Iris Engstrand and Anne Bullard, *Inspired by Nature: The San Diego Natural History Museum After 125 Years*. San Diego: San Diego Natural History Museum, 1999. (A general history of the Museum.)

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
2011 CONVENTION SALE
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Egg-citment
Color Eggs with Dyes Plucked from Growing Gardens

By Aenne Carver

Spring has arrived spreading her cloak of fresh green and stirring primal feelings in the gardener's psyche. Hit with spring fever, gardeners want to incorporate icons of the season into their gardens. One such symbol is the egg, which represents springtime, renewal, and rebirth.

Legends relating eggs to spring and rebirth abound in every culture. In ancient civilizations, like Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome, eggs were decorated for spring festivities. Slowly the colored egg worked its way into the Easter basket and into our collective hearts.

This year, to signal springtime in your garden, why not dye eggs from things you grow?

Nature's dyes come in an array of hues which are distinct from garish, chemical-based, mass-produced dyes. The resulting eggs fit naturally in the garden, tucked into statues, perched inside nests, or embellishing an empty birdbath.

Another plus of this project is that it is ideal for children of all ages.

How to Dye Eggs Naturally

The easiest way to make natural dye for eggs is to boil plants, fruits, seeds or hulls that have been cut up or crushed. Use a food processor or a blender to macerate berries, carrots or any tougher treasures. Then, take at least two cups of the raw material and cover all the ingredients with water. Be sure to use a stainless steel pot that won't stain. Boil the brew a few minutes and then simmer for 30 minutes.

The resulting liquid is the dye. Strain the liquid through a colander or sieve, and place into large bowls or jars. Add one teaspoon of vinegar for every cup of the liquid dye to help set the color. While the dye is still hot, drop in hard-boiled eggs, and then refrigerate them overnight in the dye. For a beautiful sheen, rub the finished dyed eggs with vegetable oil.

The result is eggs that have a unique appearance, and each natural dye produces a different result. The longer the eggs soak, the more solid the hue becomes, and some dyes just seem to make a more solid color. Onion skins in particular create a smooth color wash. However, the look from most berries is mottled, and uneven, almost like a bird's egg or a stone.

Get kids involved in picking items to create the dyes. To get shades of red and pink, use cooked beets, raspberries or strawberries. Brown dye results from using yellow onion skins, ground cayenne or coffee grounds. Blue and purple hues can be concocted from red cabbage, blueberries, cranberries and grapes. Yellow and green stains are the most difficult to obtain. Try grass clippings, yellow flowers, ground turmeric or asparagus stems, and let the eggs stew longer. For intense green or yellow, eggs may need to steep in the dye for 48 hours.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Eggs Dyed with Onions

Photos: Aenne Carver

For longer lasting eggs, blow the inside liquid out before dying. Use a long needle and make a hole in the top and bottom of the egg. Breaking the yolk first makes the blowing out process easier. Blown eggs can stay outside, making them ideal for creating garden vignettes. Children can keep their treasured eggs longer, and they enjoy blowing the insides out.

These springtime eggs can have a surprising second life fighting snails. Just crumble the shells and mound them a half inch high in a circle around plants to repel snails and slugs. Additionally, decomposing shells add calcium to the soil. Seasonal displays, snail protection, and a fun project for children, do you need more incentive to begin?

When you have several dyed eggs made, the creative fun begins. Hang blown eggs with fishing line so they dangle from trees, add eggs to wreaths, tie them onto gifts, or hang a few from masses of ribbon over the back of chairs. Don't put all your eggs in one basket; instead use your imagination.

–Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com, for a schedule of her talks and classes.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Eggs Dyed with Blueberries

Grab Your Hat and Camera - Garden Tour Season is Here

From the end of March through May, gardens all around the county will be open for touring. In addition to tours now in their second to ninth decade, this year's lineup includes a new native-plant garden tour sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Many benefit worthy causes, and some are timed on Mother's Day weekend—ideal for celebratory family outings. Look for more details on the San Diego Floral Association's one-of-a-kind historic garden tour in the May-June issue of *California Garden*. *–Mary James*

2011 San Diego County Garden Tours

Take a Botanical Odyssey

Sponsor: San Diego Horticultural Society
Saturday, March 26; 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $20 ($16 for SDHS members) in advance; $25 on event day
Info: www.sdhortsoc.org

The four tour gardens in the Fallbrook-Vista area include a Scott Spencer-designed garden dotted with sculpture and a "botanical garden" with plants from all five Mediterranean climate areas designed by former San Diego plants man Tom Piergrossi. Eight specialty nurseries and garden businesses in the area will offer discounts on tour day to ticketholders.

Desert Garden Tour

Sponsor: Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association
Sunday, March 27; 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $18 ($16 for ABDNHA members); $2 off tickets ordered by March 12
Info: www.abdnha.org

Five view gardens in the Borrego Springs environs will be featured on the Sunday, March 27, tour that benefits ABDNHA and the Borrego Springs Nature Center. With luck tour goers also will enjoy some of the desert's annual spring wildflower bloom. To reserve tickets, call 760-767-3098.

Annual Charity Garden Tour & Ecke Plant Sale

Sponsor: Ecke Ranch and Weidners' Gardens
Saturday, April 9; 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $25
Info: www.crcncc.org

For the 10th year, this annual tour will benefit the Community Resource Center. Stops include five residential gardens in North County. Ticket holders also can shop for spring plants sold at bargain prices at the Ecke Ranch.

Lake Hodges Native Plant Club Spring Garden Tour

Sponsor: Lake Hodges Native Plant Club
Friday, April 15; 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Cost: $15
Info: www.lhnpc.org

Four gardens in Poway and one in Rancho Bernardo will be on view. All will showcase waterwise plantings, including some that replaced thirsty lawns. Free refreshments will be served in one garden and vendors will sell plants and other garden-related items.

Dig, Design and Dine: Coronado Flower Show and Garden Tour

Sponsor: City of Coronado and Coronado Floral Association
Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17
Cost: $5
Info: www.coronadoflowershow.org

This year's event, the 85th, is built around events under the big white tent in Spreckels Park on Orange Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets. Included are a standard flower show, a plant sale and seminars. Also under the big top is a map for self-guided tours to the top 10 home gardens picked during judging throughout the community.

Seaside Native Plant Garden Tour

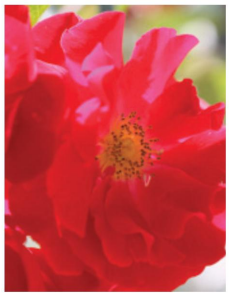
Sponsors: Buena Vista Native Plant Club and the Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association
Sunday, April 17, 2:00 p.m.
Cost: Free; donations accepted
Info: Buena Vista Nature Center, 760-439-2473

More than 15 native plant gardens in the historic Seaside neighborhood of downtown Oceanside will be on this guided 1.5 mile walking tour. Tour goers meet at St. Mary's School parking lot, 515 Wisconsin Ave. Refreshments and plant experts will be available along the route.

Bernardo Gardeners Spring Garden Tour

Sponsors: Bernardo Gardeners Club
Thursday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $15 (must be ordered by April 14)
Info: www.bernardogardeners.org

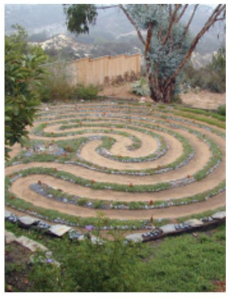
Five gardens—two in Rancho Penasquitos, two in Rancho Bernardo and one in Poway—will be on this 8th annual tour. Complementary refreshments will be available and plants will be sold. Proceeds benefit scholarships for horticultural students.



Point Loma Garden Walk

Sponsor: Dana Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary
Saturday, April 23; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $20 in advance; $25 on event day
Info: www.pointlomagardenwalk.com

The 10th annual Point Loma Garden Walk will visit 10 gardens and 2 homes in the ocean-view hills above Sunset Cliffs. A garden boutique with plants, garden art and gifts will be staged in a private garden in the same area. Proceeds benefit Craniofacial Services at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego.



Encinitas Garden Festival and Tour

Sponsor: City of Encinitas
Saturday, April 30; 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Cost: $21 ($7 for children age 10 and younger) in advance; $25 ($10 for children 10 and younger) on event day
Info: www.encinitasgardenfestival.org

Twenty gardens along tree-lined, historic Crest Avenue in Encinitas will be open for this year's tour, the 6th annual. In addition a Marketplace will house plant and garden product vendors, information booths, refreshments and several free garden talks.

Friends of East County Arts Garden Tour

Sponsor: Friends of East County Arts
Saturday, April 30; 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Cost: $15 in advance; $18 on event day
Info: 619-440-5605

Tropical, cottage and western-themed gardens are among the six open for visits on this 16th annual tour. Refreshments and a light lunch will be available at one site; vendors will be located in another. Funds raised support the fine arts in East County.

Ramona Garden Tour

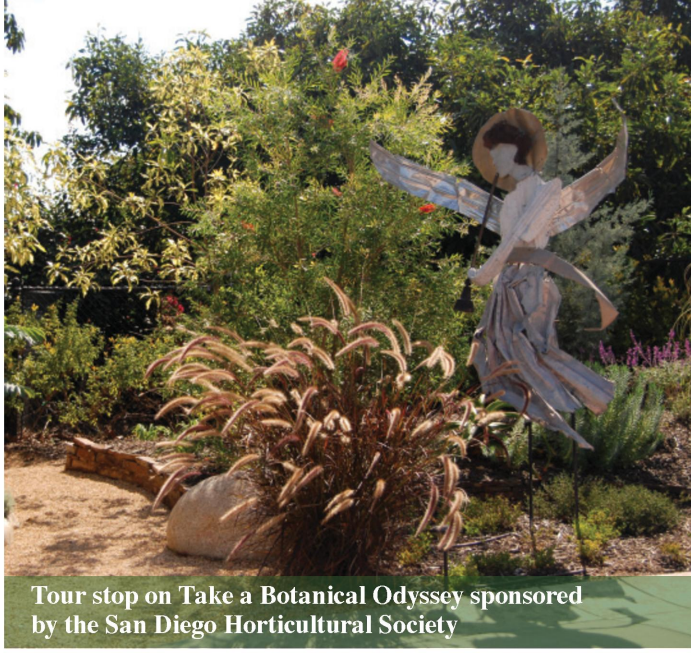
Sponsors: Ramona Garden Club
Saturday, April 30; 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Cost: $15
Info: www.ramonagardenclub.com

Gardens owned by photographers, artists and nature lovers are among the five featured on this 4th annual tour. On tour day, a plant sale will be held at the First Business Bank, 1315 Main Street, where educational and other vendor booths also will be located.

San Diego CNPS Native Plant Garden Tour

Sponsor: California Native Plant Society (CNPS), San Diego Chapter
Saturday and Sunday, April 30-May 1, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. both days
Cost: $10; $5 for students and seniors
Info: www.cnpssd.org

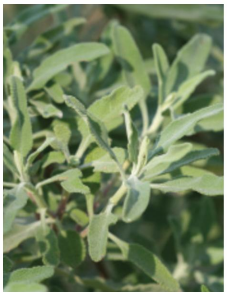
This first annual self-guided tour includes 25 gardens, including home and commercial landscapes, located from Fallbrook to South Bay. Docents and landscape designers will be on hand to provide information about the gardens' designs and plants.



Tour stop on Take a Botanical Odyssey sponsored by the San Diego Horticultural Society

Garden featured on the Encinitas Garden Festival and Tour

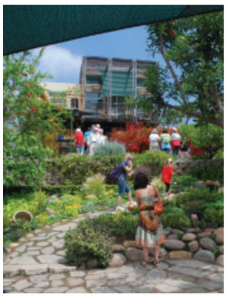
A Coronado garden included on the San Diego Floral Association's Historic Garden Tour.



Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tour

Sponsor: CHIRP for Garden Wildlife
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 6-8; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $15 ($12.50 by April 15)
Info: www.chirp.org

Five bird-and-butterfly-friendly gardens, including Bonnie Teckemeyer's garden recently featured in *San Diego Home-Garden/Lifestyles* magazine, will be open three days for touring. On Saturday and Sunday, tour-goers also can enjoy a festival on the grounds of the Viejas Outlet Center that begins with a live butterfly release.



A Stroll Down Sunset Boulevard: Mission Hills Garden Tour

Sponsor: Mission Hills Garden Club
Saturday, May 7; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $25 in advance; $30 on event day
Info: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

This popular neighborhood tour, now in its 13th year, will feature a dozen or more gardens in the northern area of Mission Hills. In many of the tour stops, musicians will play and artists will display their work. Included is a wine reception at historic Mission Hills Nursery from 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Through Garden Gates

Sponsor: American Association of University Women,
Del Mar-Leucadia Branch
Saturday, May 7; 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Cost: $25 in advance; $30 on event day
Info: 760-603-9287 or throughgardengates2011@gmail.com

Four North County gardens that showcase drought-tolerant plantings will be featured on this 15th annual tour. Sales of tickets, plants and garden art and tiles will benefit Tech Trek math and science programs for girls at UC San Diego, as well as other educational programs.

Rambling Through the Ranch

Sponsor: Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
Saturday, May 7; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $30 in advance; $40 on event day
Info: www.rsfgardenclub.org

A trolley will take tour-goers to five Rancho Santa Fe Gardens with diverse landscapes, musical entertainment and refreshments. In addition, an open-air market at the RSF Garden Club, 17025 Avenida de Acacias, will feature music, food, artisan and vendor booths selling garden gifts and art. Contact the club at 858-756-1554 to purchase tickets by phone.

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Each vinyl Tote Bag is handcrafted locally by a native San Diegan, using local photographers, printed by a local company, using native plants and critters of San Diego County.
Custom bags available with an image you provide of your favorite native flower or critter.
The common and the scientific name of the plant or critter is printed on the inside rim of the Tote Bag
Approximate size of each bag is 11"w x 13"w x 6"d with 28" handles

Clairemont Garden Tour

Sponsor: Clairemont Town Council
Saturday, May 7; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $15 in advance; $20 on event day
Info: www.clairemontonline.com

More than 15 gardens in styles ranging from drought-tolerant to tropical will be featured on this neighborhood tour. Proceeds benefit Clairemont community organizations, schools and events.

Secret Garden Tour of Old La Jolla

Sponsor: La Jolla Historical Society
Saturday, May 14; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $50 ($40 for LJHS members)
Info: www.lajollahistory.org

Stops on this popular tour are not revealed until tour day. Previous events have visited ocean-view estates and La Jolla Village cottages. Details on a package that includes transportation and lunch are on the LJHS web site.

Historic Garden Tour

Sponsor: San Diego Floral Association
Saturday, May 14; 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $20
Info: www.sdfloral.org

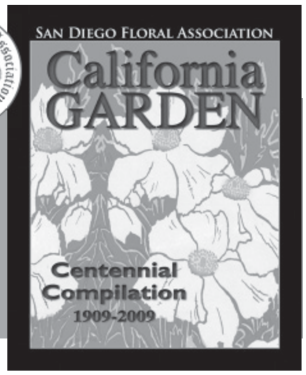
A garden planned and planted by horticulturist Kate Sessions is among the gardens on this tour centered in Coronado. The bay-side city was the site of Sessions' first nursery growing fields and there are many trees and other plants associated with her growing in their fullest and most beautiful forms throughout its neighborhoods.

Fallbrook Garden Club 2011 Garden Tour

Sponsor: Fallbrook Garden Club
Saturday, May 21; 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Cost: $20 (two for $35)
Info: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

Six gardens in the Fallbrook-Bonsall area and a boutique working vineyard will be open for this 7th annual tour that benefits local scholarship programs. Event day tickets will be sold at the Fallbrook Historical Society, 260 Rockycrest Rd., from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Available at www.sdfloral.org
Enjoy the long history of our magazine. **256 pages.**
$30. *including tax*



SDFA's Annual Historic Tour Spotlights Coronado Gardens

San Diego Floral is taking its annual spring garden tour across the bay. This will be the first garden tour of its kind in beautiful, historic Coronado.

On Saturday, May 14, gardens will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ticket price is $20.

Be sure to make plans for lunch at the Del Coronado Hotel or one of the other fine restaurants in Coronado before or after the tour. The adventuresome may chose to roll a bicycle aboard the ferry and make this a garden ride.

Gardens with historic backgrounds or connected to a historic home have been identified, some with outstanding mature trees and plants. One of our tour stops is a garden planned and planted by early horticulturist Kate Sessions and described in detail in a garden book of the time. The garden has changed over eight decades, of course, but retains the character of the original.

Coronado was the site of Sessions' first nursery growing fields and there are many trees and other plants associated with her growing in their fullest and most beautiful forms throughout the neighborhoods.

Tickets will be available in late March at local nurseries, the Floral office and online through the Floral Association web site. Half-day volunteers will receive a free ticket to the tour; call the Floral office at 619-232-5762 for details.

The tour is the Association's major fundraising event of the year but also furthers SDFA's educational mission by providing access to a variety of historic and beautiful gardens in local communities. Please join us on May 14 when garden history comes alive in Coronado. *–Nancy Carol Carter*

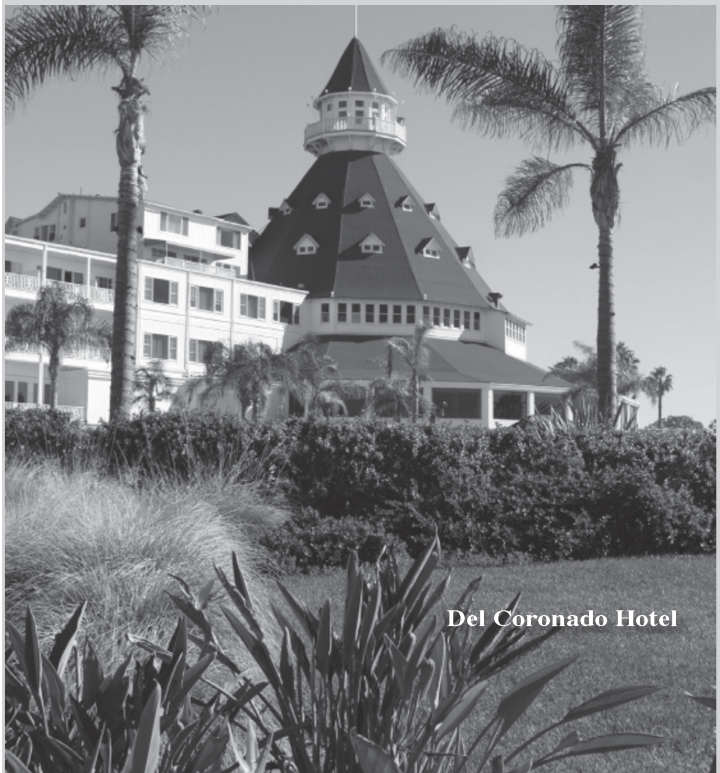

Del Coronado Hotel

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Growing GROUNDS

Biological Control: Finding the Right Parasite for the Right Pest

By John Blocker

No single achievement has more thoroughly, soundly, and significantly established a major pest control tactic than the vedalia project. All subsequent projects, programs, advances, and refinement in theory and practice of biological control have sprung from this single event.

– L. E. Caltagirone and R. L. Droutt in the 1989 *Annual Review of Entomology* writing about the importation of the Australian vedalia beetle 100 years earlier to control cottony cushion scale in California.

New plant pests hitchhike on the considerable amount of plant material arriving in San Diego County each year from around the globe, causing mayhem in our gardens and destruction to farm crops. "We are always inundated with new pests," says Dr. David Kellum, Entomologist for San Diego County Department of Agriculture.

Since the introduction of the vidalia beetle in 1889 to control cottony cushion scale in California, biological control has proved a reliable method to combat these new pests in both garden and orchard settings. The Federal government, the State of California and the University of California now have divisions that promote pest control with their natural predators and parasites.

The control of the *Eugenia* psyllid and the giant whitefly provide two examples of this technique. Throughout the late 1980s, leaves of *Eugenia* plants throughout Southern California suddenly became disfigured. A psyllid, new to the area, proved to be the cause. Spraying, sometimes as often as once per week, was the only way to keep the insect in check and plants looking good.

The psyllid, dubbed the *Eugenia* psyllid, is native to Victoria and New South Wales, Australia. Found by a homeowner in Los Angeles in May 1988, the psyllid reached San Diego County by the end of that same year. University of California researchers began studying this pest immediately, and in 1992 they released throughout the state a parasitic wasp shipped from Australia. Damage to the leaves largely disappeared, but Dr. Kellum says because the cool spring in 2010 slowed the activity of the parasite, some disfigured leaves appeared again on *Eugenia* plants for a short time.

Then in 1992 giant whitefly, a pest of hibiscus from Mexico, appeared in San Diego. Scruffy, long white flocking coated the undersides of hibiscus leaves. When the leaves were disturbed, giant whiteflies floated in the air like ash. The University of California imported two species of wasps from Mexico to control the pest. Dr. Kellum believes this pest to be at least 80 percent controlled now.

Photo: John Blocker

Leaf damage caused by the *Eugenia pysllid* during the winter

Saving Citrus

The development of biological control as a pest control method in citrus groves was a long and often painstaking process. In 1926, citrus mealybug invaded the citrus groves in the City of Fillmore as it had Chula Vista's lemon orchards a few years earlier. The extent of the infestation is reflected in the headline from the *Fillmore Herald*: "Fillmore and Piru Citrus Growers to Rush Erection Here of Insectary Plant to Kill Citrophilus."

On April 2, 1926 the Fillmore Citrus Protection District hired Howard Lorbeer, a recent graduate from Pomona College, to oversee the citrus mealybug control project. Immediately, he built an insectary for the 50-member cooperative to raise cryptolaemus, a ladybug known to control citrus mealybug.

Despite the release of the cryptolaemus, citrus mealybug continued to spread out of control in Fillmore and around the state. Recalling how cottony cushion scale and citrus mealybug were controlled by imported predators from Australia, growers urged the University of California to take action. They sent Harold Compere, an entomologist with the Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside, to Australia to look for more parasites and predators. He found two species of wasps in the Sydney area. Upon his return in 1929, he released them into the Fillmore orchards as well as other locations throughout California. As the vedalia beetle had overcome cottony cushion scale in 1889, these new wasps, along with the cryptolaemus already released into the groves, brought citrus mealybug under control in one year.

In the early 1950s, Howard Lorbeer still managed the Fillmore Citrus Protection District's groves. Around this time he began combining the use of the newly discovered oregano-phosphate pesticides into the District's pest management scheme. Red scale and red mite were two major pests in his groves. By 1960, the cost of spraying pesticides escalated to the point that the District

decided that when pest populations grew too large, growers would have to pay to spray their own groves. The District would continue to release biological control agents for their members.

In 1960, the District released over 75,000 red scale parasites obtained from the University of California Citrus Experiment Station and Rincon-Vitova, a commercial insectary. By the next year, red scale was controlled on Fillmore ranches.

Growers expected to continue spraying pesticides to control other pests such as red mite. But red mite populations also declined when pesticides were not used. Lorbeer had predicted this result. He realized the pesticides destroyed natural enemies of the mites. Without the use of pesticides, the natural enemies now kept the red mite under control. Using parasitic insects for red scale control in the groves reduced total pest control costs by more than half.

Lorbeer demonstrated to researchers at the University of California that releasing parasites of mealybug and other citrus pests provided an effective overall method of pest control in groves and use of pesticides could be minimized. By 1974 when he retired after 47 years, the Fillmore Citrus Protective District, relying largely on biological control, was considered to have one of the most advanced pest management systems in the world. Each year people from colleges, universities, government agencies and foreign countries continue to visit the District to study their pest control methods.

Rise of a commercial insectary

Everett Dietrick, an entomologist at U.C. Riverside, started the first commercial insectary in California in 1950. He produced aphytis, a parasitic wasp, in his garage. Aphytis proved successful in controlling red scale in Riverside's hot, dry climate. His only customer that first year was a Mr. Stover, director of a large citrus production company.

In 1951, Earnest and Douglas Green were rearing cryptolaemus beetles in an empty restaurant on Rincon Beach north of Ventura to sell to growers. This is the same predator produced by the San Diego County insectary in Chula Vista beginning prior to 1920, and later by the insectary in Fillmore. Fiscal cutbacks and possibly the touted successes of broad spectrum insecticides in controlling pests led to the closure of the county insectaries and an opportunity opened for a commercial venture.

Dietrick drove with his family from Riverside to Ventura on weekends to help his friends, the Green brothers, establish the insectary. He is still part owner. Today the Rincon-Vitova insectary produces a wide variety of predators and parasites and sells insects for use in commercial groves and residential settings.

According to Gary Bender, San Diego County Farm Adviser for Subtropical and Deciduous Fruit, pests in today's citrus groves are largely controlled by predators and parasites found in the grove. Growers survey their trees every few weeks. If pest levels are too high, parasites or predators bought from insectaries such as Rincon-Vitova are released. "It is not unusual for citrus growers to spray their groves only once per year with light oil," Dr. Bender says.

Photos: John Blocker

Inset: Hisbiscus plants free of pests
Background: A lemon tree in the landscape free of pests

Dr. Bender had his own success story to tell concerning the use of biological control agents. Introduced into California in 1994, the glassy winged sharpshooter threatened to spread a devastating bacterial disease to grapes. Around 2000, Dr. Bender released a parasitic wasp into a heavy infestation of glassy winged sharpshooter on an acre of citrus in Pauma Valley. By the end of the season, the sharpshooter was completely controlled. "When you find the right parasite," Dr. Bender said, "the results can be amazing."

–John Blocker worked with the agricultural industry in San Diego for 31 years and has attended garden conferences and viewed gardens around the world during the past 20 years. From 1998 to 2008 he was on the board of the California Garden and Landscape History Society.

Sources:

Proceedings, Fruit Growers and Farmers Convention, Issue 11, University of California.

Bulletin of the Entomological Society of America, 30: 4 (1984).

The Fillmore Protective District, UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines.

Rincon-Vitova Insectaries (www.riconvitova.com).

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NOW IS THE TIME

Timely tips to keep plants happy throughout March and April

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

1. Revitalize violets by repotting every six months with fresh soil that has been sterilized in the oven or microwave.
2. Leach violets with warm water at the first sign of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot and/or on the top of the soil.
3. Search the Internet to find commercial companies or individual growers who will sell and ship plants to you.
4. Fertilize violets with one-half the amount suggested on the label if you use "wick" watering. This is a continuous water system and requires fewer nutrients in the watering well.
5. Avoid fertilizers that use urea as an ingredient.
6. Isolate violets from other houseplants or cut flowers to avoid infestation.

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

1. Replenish soil. Mulch where needed.
2. Start feeding. Use one-fourth strength of an all-purpose plant food once a week, half strength if twice a month, full strength if once a month.
3. Keep plants moist, not too wet.
4. Start new plants from cuttings, leaves, or seeds.
5. Remove all spent blossoms and leaves.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

1. Repot bonsai: Deciduous trees need repotting more often than conifers. Repot deciduous trees every one to two years and conifers every two to three years.
2. Root prune before repotting. Be sure to wire the roots into the pot securely.
3. Graft conifers and deciduous trees.
4. Adjust watering according to weather conditions. Avoid over-watering during the rainy season.
5. Repotted trees should not be fertilized until one month after repotting; otherwise start fertilizing in April.
6. Rapeseed cake fertilizers are best for bonsai. Lacking that, use chemical fertilizers diluted to one-fourth strength to avoid root and leaf burn.
7. Watch for aphids. Treat with insecticidal soap, protecting the soil. Aphids may be present on deciduous trees as well as on conifers.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

1. Clean plants after the winter by cutting dead leaves and spent blossoms, and flushing in between the leaves and the center cup. This results in healthier plants.
2. Check for scale. If present, treat them with Cygon 2 according to the instructions on the label.
3. Keep snails and slugs away. Clean up all debris from the plant area then spread wood ashes around it.
4. Start fertilizing. One good way is to spread one teaspoon of Osmocote formula 14-14-14 over potting media. Use one teaspoon for a 6-inch pot.
5. Protect plants from sunburn. Use shade cloth or any other material that allows plenty of sunlight to come through.
6. Proper light and sufficient air circulation is essential for bromeliads.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

1. As we move from winter when most succulents are dormant, new growth should start to appear on many succulents. If you want to fertilize, this is a good time to start. A balanced granule or liquid fertilizer (20-20-20) is a good choice. Dilute to half-strength.
2. Be sure plants in containers and in the ground are watered before fertilizer is applied and, if the fertilizer is in granule or liquid form, well watered after application.
3. Snails are prevalent now and might snack on new tender growth, especially on broadleaved varieties. You can pick them off or try creating some sharp sand barriers around in-ground specimens or copper tape around containers.
4. Rainfall and cool weather require container growers to be sure no water has collected in or around the bottom of pots. Removing dead plant material in and around plants will help keep them drier, prevent rotting and keep the garden looking better.
5. Some succulents will be in flower now–bulbine, aeonium, kniphofia, schlumbergera (Easter cactus), aloes, sedums, some echeverias and kalanchoes to name a few. Why not cut off a few flower stalks and incorporate them into your flower vase arrangement? And flowering succulents make an enduring and endearing gift for Valentine's Day.
6. Watch the weather forecast for freezing, hail or unusually heavy rain and protect accordingly.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

1. Begin a fertilizing program. Feed three times during the year. The first feeding is in March. An easy way to remember the schedule is to feed around St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and July 4th.
2. As new growth comes on towards the end of the month and starts to elongate, it is time to feed. For the first feeding, mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at a ratio of one part blood meal to four parts cottonseed. It is also recommended to add chelated iron at this time. You can also use a pre-mixed camellia/azalea fertilizer.
3. Watch for aphids and hose them off with a spray of water. They are attracted to the soft new growth.
4. Prune before new growth starts or while new growth is under an inch long. Cut the branch back to its origin or to an outward pointing growth bud or dormant bud eye and don't leave more than ¼ inch of a stub at the cut.
5. Keep in mind the three universal pruning points: 1) Remove all dead or weak branches; 2) remove all crossing branches that may interfere with other branches; 3) remove branches to open up the center of the plant in order to allow light to enter and air to circulate.
6. Keep after those fallen blooms. Pick them up and remove.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

1. Prepare gardens/pots for spring planting.
2. Dig and divide dahlias.
3. Plant tubers beginning in April when soil is warm. Tubers should be four to six inches down, planted horizontally with "eye" up. Insert stakes at this time and hang a nametag on top of each one.
4. Keep moist but not wet until plant has broken the surface of the soil.
5. Protect from harsh sun; water lightly.
6. Protect from snails and slugs.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

1. Watch weather for possible late frosts.
2. Trim dead and unsightly branches.
3. Check for ants, aphids and scale.
4. Feed epiphyllums with a low-nitrogen fertilizer. A low nitrogen fertilizer is the accepted standard, although many find that any fertilizer works fine, as long as there is some applied.
5. Check trellis and ties to insure plants are well-secured.
6. Give plants more filtered sunlight, but not direct sun, to encourage bud development.
7. Bait for snails. Granules are effective when placed at the base of the plant. Nightly "patrols" with a flashlight are effective.
8. Make sure all pots are in place a place where they have good drainage.
9. Take cuttings now to callous before planting.
10. Remove buds from young plants. You will be rewarded with a healthier plant and more blooms in the future.

FERNS

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

1. Fertilize with half strength high nitrogen liquid or slow release pellets.
2. Remove dead and dying fronds. Clean up plants for spring.
3. Water more frequently. Most ferns are starting to grow now. Collect rainwater for plants that don't get it naturally. It will leach out salts.
4. Divide and repot over grown plants as they start to grow. Top-dress others.
5. Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Start looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
6. Watch for giant white flies, best treated by wiping off egg spirals and hosing plants.
7. Sow last years spores.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticultural Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

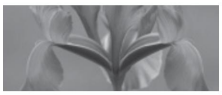
1. If the soil is not moist, irrigate when new growth begins to a depth of three feet.
2. Apply fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.
3. Begin thinning fruit of apples, pears and stone fruit when they are about 1/2-inch in size. Space fruit four to six inches apart. Leave one fruit per spur. Thin early-maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late-maturing varieties.
4. Check trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has a short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap, horticultural oil or pyrethrin, to protect beneficial insects.
5. Keep ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper or duct tape around the trunk and coating it with a sticky material like Tanglefoot. Trim branches that touch other objects to stop ants from going around the barrier. Also place ant stakes or small containers with toxic bait by ant nests and trails.
6. Spray apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply carbaryl (Sevin) after petals have fallen and again three weeks later. For other control methods see the UC Pest Note on Codling Moth at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.
7. Control powdery mildew on grapes. Apply sulfur spray (Safer

Garden Fungicide) or dust when new shoots are 6, 12, 18 and 24 inches long. Then every two weeks, or as needed until harvest.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

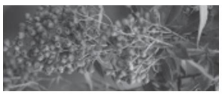
1. Weed and prep beds.
2. Amend and fertilize soil.
3. Plant annual herbs after the last frost. Borage, cilantro and dill will do better if planted by seed. Basil can be grown by seed or transplant.
4. Protect new plants from snails and slugs.
5. Harvest from native herbs: sagebrush, yerba mansa, white sage, black sage and elderberry, among others.
6. Make fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary and sage. Fresh or dried, they make great gifts for your gourmand friends.



IRIS

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

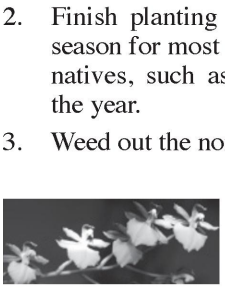
1. Start feeding with low-nitrogen, all-purpose fish fertilizers.
2. Water regularly if there is no rain.
3. Clean beds and keep weeds under control.
4. Watch for pests. Systemic spray applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.
5. Give Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food; a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.



NATIVE PLANTS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

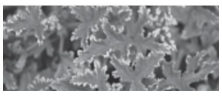
1. Plant wildflower seeds, like California bluebells, Chinese Monitor the local rainfall total. If it is above average, no water is needed.
2. Finish planting natives. March is the end of the planting season for most drought tolerant species. Some riparian area natives, such as yerba mansa, can be planted throughout the year.
3. Weed out the non-natives (sowthistle and such).



ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

1. Repot anything needing a new pot. This is a great time to replace any green and white moss in pots and baskets that rotted during the winter.
2. Train developing spikes, particularly among oncidium.
3. Begin or increase watering for deciduous orchids as temperatures increase and plants show signs of growth.
4. Water plants more often and be sure that the increased light and temperatures don't cause sun damage. Fertilizers can be increased this time of year, too.
5. Finish all repotting before temperatures get too hot.
6. Monitor cooler-growing plants to make sure they are not getting stressed as temperatures rise.
7. Pot up keikeis (the babies) from your epidendrum stems to make new plants.



PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemick, San Diego Geranium Society

1. Remove dead, older and/or damaged leaves. This will promote new growth and protect against molds and fungi, including geranium rust on zonals. Removal of older leaves allows more light into the plant interior and will result in fuller plants with more blooms.
2. Repot into larger containers where necessary and pot rooted cuttings.
3. Maintain a steady watering cycle. Even in rainy conditions the foliage may get wet but the rain may run off the foliage and not get into the pot. Keep your plants watered.
4. Continue feeding with a good commercial fertilizer. Use one-third to one-half of the label's recommended strength. Apply at two-week intervals.
5. Continue a pest control and disease prevention program. Guard against geranium rust, budworm and aphids. There are several combination products that contain both an insecticide and fungicide and will treat with one application. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
6. Top pinch any long or barren stems to promote fuller growth and increased flowering.
7. Protect plants from late season freezes. Use temporary coverings, move plants to an elevated location or place plants in a protected place overnight.
8. Spread plants so they have plenty of room to grow. This provides better air circulation and light which helps to prevent pests and disease.
9. Continue to rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

PLUMERIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

1. Move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm full sun.
2. Start watering and fertilizing with a low nitrogen fertilizer like 3-12-12. This is only a guide. Your soil conditions may require some adjustments or other nutrients.
3. Take cuttings and prune. Prune only to shape the plant.
4. Repot plants and "top up" larger plants. This is to replace the soil with a fresh and revitalized mix. Use one-half cactus mix, one-fourth #3 perlite and one-fourth Wormgold. Keep soil at same level as before.
5. Expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

1. Apply at least one inch of water twice per week to keep plants well hydrated.
2. Start the growing season fertilizer routine. There are many successful methods of doing this with organic foods or synthetic chemicals.
3. Control aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning. Aphids are clustered on new growth. A rapid flicking motion of the fingers will remove them. I prefer this method. Insecticidal soap and horticultural sprays are effective.
4. Control rose slugs (sawfly larvae) using Spinosad which is an organic product. Rose slugs thrive on the underside of leaves and eat most of the leaf, leaving only lacy-looking skeletal remains. Spinosad is also the best choice for caterpillars. Use Spinosad only when rose slugs are identified.
5. Control powdery mildew. Either wash each bud with a water spray every morning or spray with fungicides. Good control is achieved by alternating Compass and Banner Maxx, spraying every two weeks.
6. You can also shovel-prune bushes that are susceptible and replace them with mildew-resistant plants.
7. Love and preserve beneficial insects by avoiding the use of any general pesticide like Orthene or Merit. Keeping beneficial insects alive will keep spider mites dead. If you use powerful pesticides like the two mentioned, spray only the flower buds or spot spray the new growth where there is an aphid infestation.
8. Look for and preserve basal cane growth, which is new growth originating at or slightly above the bud union (where the blooming part of the rose grafted to the root stock). Gently stake these new canes.
9. For any information or questions about roses go to http://www.sdrosesociety.org/index.htm, the San Diego Rose Society website and click on Ask an Expert. There is extensive information and excellent photos of pests and beneficial insects at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/pmg/menu.homegarden.html, the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management website.

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VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

1. Prepare soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them several weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply no more than 20 pounds of poultry manure or 50 pounds of steer manure per 100 square feet.
2. Plant cool season vegetables: beets, carrots, celeriac, celery (transplants), chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, green onions, parsley, parsnips, bush peas (March), early white potatoes, radish, rutabaga (March) and spinach (March).
3. Plant warm season vegetables after danger of frost is past and soil is warm: Snap beans, cantaloupes, chayote, corn, cucumber, eggplant, Florence fennel, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, squash, tomatoes and watermelon.
4. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other warm season vegetables.

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Growing vegetables – and future gardeners – starts with seeds, savvy and a big bucket of fun

By Pat Welsh

One of the best things we can do as parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents is to turn children on early to the joy of gardening. If our efforts work they'll have a healthy outdoor hobby throughout life. If not, nothing we can do will change them. Some people adore gardening, others don't—it's chemistry. But maybe as parents and grandparents (and great grandparents) we can give kids the opportunity to make their own discoveries, and then stand back and not mess things up when the enthusiasm takes off.

When I was a child I was lucky to have gardens to play in. My brother John and I grew up in England and whenever it wasn't raining we played outdoors on our tricycles. We climbed trees in the orchard, chased hoops on garden paths, or played games of imagination in the shrubbery and woods.

One of my grandfathers had a vegetable garden as big as a city block. He didn't do the work himself - a gardener called Viney did all that; but every day Grandad chatted with Viney and checked to see how things were growing. John and I watched Viney work. We liked the earthy smell of compost. John asked Viney scads of questions and Viney never was impatient. He answered our questions in a sensible and kindly way. He let us play hide and seek among the vegetable beds and pretended to chase us. Our grandfather picked ripe tomatoes in the greenhouse and handed them to us to eat. The juice ran down our faces. No tomato has ever tasted better than those.

John and I were still children—I was eight and he was 11—when our parents left us in England and immigrated to America. Over a year later, after war had broken out in Europe, they sent for us to join them. They bought a farm in Pennsylvania and during the Second World War, we all worked on the farm and in our "Victory Garden."

One winter, our stepfather Geoff told John and me he was going to give each of us a little plot of ground next to his vegetable garden the following spring. We could plant whatever we wanted. After that John and I spent many winter days poring over seed catalogues while snow covered the ground outdoors. Catalogues were black and white but their written descriptions filled our heads with dreams of stunning gardens overflowing with our favorite flowers and vegetables.

In spring we sent for seeds, dug up the soil, and planted. No one told us what to plant, what to do, or how to do it. We forgot to amend the soil, fertilize, or water. The family vegetable garden was spectacular, but John's and my plants died.

Our gardens were a failure, but it didn't matter. Our parents never noticed. No one criticized us so our dream survived. John and I finally lost patience with our own little garden plots. Even then, no one minded or criticized us. From then on we concentrated on helping in the family garden, but we were turned on to gardening for life. The dreams we had enjoyed during that snowy winter stayed with us forever. Instead of the reality, we remembered the dream. Now in our 80s, we are both still gardening today.

If you're planning on growing vegetables in your own home garden and would like to involve your kids in the process, here's an easy recipe for success.

Kid Friendly Organic Gardening

SUPPLIES:

- 1 patch earth or raised bed in full sun. (Six hours or more of sun a day is best.)
- 1 set child-friendly tools. (Optional. These can be tools bought at a garage sale with handles sawed down to child size, but just a trowel will do.)
- Adult tools - spade, hoe, rake, cultivator, trowels.
- Gloves for you and kids. (Optional)
- 1 bag organic soil amendment or home-made compost per raised bed filled with garden soil.
- 1 small paint-bucket full of potting soil for covering seeds.
- 1 small paint-bucket containing a cup or two of sand for mixing with small seeds.
- 1 small paint bucket to hold seed packets, scissors, plant labels, pen, and paper clips or clothes pins for closing up seed packets.
- Several plant labels and pen.
- 1 bag organic fertilizer. (This can be commercial packaged organic veggie food, chicken manure or guano.)
- Seeds and plants of vegetables you want to grow. (Choose cool-season plants when you start your garden in winter or spring. Choose warm-season plants when you start your garden in spring or early summer.)
- Packaged or homemade trellis for tall crops like peas.
- Posts to hold up trellis
- A water system or the garden hose. (Drip systems make for easy care once installed. Water from the hose is fine too.)

SEASONING:

- 2 pounds Easy-Does-It. (If a child runs away to play, let them go. Don't fuss.)
- 1 bucket Fun: (Gardening is work but it's also fun and satisfying. Children will catch on if they see you having fun.)
- 1 large dollop of Knowledge: (Know what you're doing. Do your research first.)
- 1 plan of action. (Think out what you're going to do and write a list step-by-step.)

Pat Welsh's great grandchildren and a friend plant a raised-bed vegetable garden at their Los Angeles-area home. Photos by Rebecca Woolf.

HERE ARE THE STEPS:

1. **Collect ingredients.**

2. **Prepare the planting area.** Dig the ground to the depth of a spade and turn over the soil. Spread about a 4-inch layer of organic soil amendment or homemade compost on top of soil. Mix it into the top 8 to 12 inches of soil. Apply the right amount of fertilizer according to package directions and cultivate it into the top 6 inches. Then rake the top of the ground level.

3. **Plan the layout.** Plan to plant tall crops to the north and shorter crops to the south. Or plant tall crops in north-south rows so sun passes over them and hits all parts. For tall crops install trellises using fence posts for supports.

4. **Plant.** Plant seeds and transplants of crops correct for the season of the year. Read seed packets and labels for correct distances apart. Water the garden after planting.

5. **Continue on.** Water the garden, weed when necessary, release ladybugs, pick off bad bugs, and watch your garden grow. Thin crops that need it as they grow. Feed when required and harvest when crops are ready. Apply "Garden Know How" as needed in an ongoing way whenever necessary.

GARDEN KNOW-HOW:

Both the kids and you will learn by doing.

1. **Here are some things vegetables need:** A plot of ground in full sun; organic soil amendment to loosen up the soil and create microbial action; fertilizer to feed them; water for them to drink; protection from pests and diseases; correct planting time for each crop.

2. **Here are the times of year to plant various crops:** In warm-winter climates, plant cool-season crops in fall and winter. In cold-winter climates, plant cool-season crops in early spring. In all climates, plant warm-season crops after the weather warms up in spring when all danger of frost has passed.

3. **Here are some little things to pay attention to:** Correct planting depth (each seed has a correct planting depth; follow package directions and you will do okay); covering seeds with potting soil can help them sprout in heavy soil; mixing fine seeds with a little sand can help spread them out evenly; loosening up the roots of transplants can help them get off to a good start; humic acid is a great transplanting fluid and root stimulant. Find it in catalogues.

4. **Here's how to follow the organic way:** Feed plants with organic fertilizers; they'll taste better. Use organic methods to control pests and diseases; never use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. Make a compost pile or buy a couple of composting bins and follow the directions that come with the bin. (While you are filling one, you can be using the compost out of the other.) Encourage earthworms by digging lots of organics into the ground or start a worm bin.

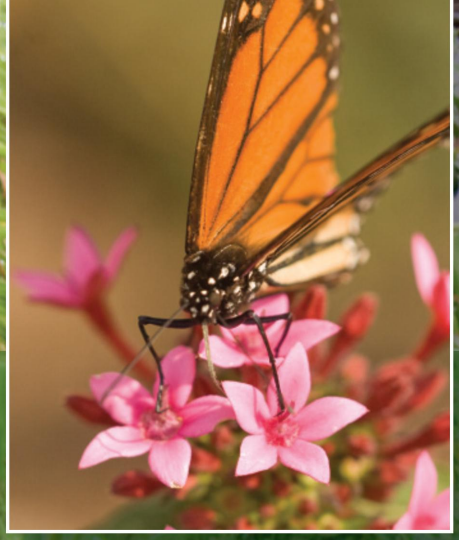
SUMMING UP:

With very young children, give them little jobs like digging or raking that could be fun, and if they wander off, just let it happen. If a child is forced to garden, it's simply another chore. Some children love gardening while others do not.

My great grandson Archer is a boy with wheels and construction toys in his head, but his sister Fable seems to take to gardening like a ladybug to an aphid. If kids see grownups gardening correctly, they'll learn by osmosis. And by knowing the basic facts ourselves, we'll be ready with answers if a kid should ask. And if we don't know the answer to a question, we can always look it up and tell them later.

That's enough for a start! Good luck and have fun gardening, either with your kids or without.

–Pat Welsh is an award-winning Del Mar author and lecturer. This article originally appeared on www.girlsgonechild.net, a personal lifestyle blog written by Pat's granddaughter Rebecca Woolf. Other articles and videos by Pat regularly appear on Woolf's site. For more gardening advice, visit Pat's Web site, www.patwelsh.com, for a variety of articles on various gardening topics as well as a schedule of her book signings and talks.



Monarch at the Butterfly Garden at Hamilton Children's Garden

Mom's Garden Helper

Children Play in the Garden's Purple Fountain Grass Maze

All Photos: Rachel Cobb

Seeds of Wonder Children's Vegetable Garden at San Diego Botanic Garden

Mom, I'll be in the Garden! Rocks and Rakes, Butterflies and Strawberries are a Child's Delight

By Linda Davis

What memories do you have about being outside as a child? You probably connected with nature and plants in your family's garden or someplace close to home.

Children growing up these days in San Diego have the Hamilton Children's Garden in San Diego Botanic Garden as a place for exploration, learning and excitement. Its many imaginative play areas have become some of the most popular places in the garden among children and their parents or grandparents. Toni's Tree House, a three level construction with places to hide, crawl through or climb up, is irresistible—and educational too. The Hamilton Garden's many activities—from watering plants to racing boats in our stream area—all are designed to promote children's enthusiasm and appreciation of nature.

To help develop a child's connection with nature in your home garden is a joy for all involved—without demanding a big investment of time and effort. Here are a few simple ideas that can foster a life-long love of being in the garden.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Where's My Rake?

Children enjoy helping in the garden; but not having the right size tools may make it difficult for them to really be of much help. Having a shovel, rake, trowel and hoe that they can handle safely will help them really get into a gardening task. A smaller size watering can may be needed for them to help with watering tasks. In the Hamilton Children's Garden even very small children want to help water plants. And don't forget a hat and gloves—doesn't that make you an official gardener?

Eating in the Garden

Planting fast-growing plants that can be eaten immediately after picking are the best. What could be tastier than a just-picked strawberry or cherry tomato? Planting vegetables that can be eaten raw is a good way to introduce children to foods that they haven't wanted to try. After eating a sugar snap pea, a three-year old told me that she loved peas, which brought a look of surprise to her mother's face. Herbs such as mint and lemon verbena can be easily picked by even very young children and added to a favorite drink or herb tea.

Worms Need to Eat Too

A worm bin provides many activities for a child. There are bins available online or from a nursery. If you want to experiment, you can start a worm bin with a plastic tub, shredded paper and a bunch of red wriggler worms that you will need to purchase or collect from another worm bin. Worms eat fruit and vegetable scraps so children can help feed them and harvest their castings to add to your vegetable garden. In the Hamilton Incredible Edibles area, we dilute the worm castings with water and children water our vegetables with the "worm tea." I have often been told by a child holding a worm that the worm likes them—the perfect pet!!

What's Living in my Garden?

One of the most exciting places in the Children's Garden is the butterfly garden. Seeing an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly in one small area is a thrill for all of the visitors to the garden. To attract Monarch butterflies to your garden, you must have milkweed plants since that is the only plant that Monarch caterpillars will eat. Plant lots of milkweed close together so the caterpillars won't run out of food. The plants are perennials and easily re-seed themselves. In the San Diego Botanic Garden, we see Monarch butterflies from June into January.

Playing With Rocks, Sticks and Dirt

Have a few areas in your garden where imaginary play can take place. It could be as simple as a space between shrubs or trees that could become a fort or a restaurant. Adding a tree stump or a child-sized chair can promote reading or an art activity. Some building blocks and rocks can involve children for hours. Fill a pot with rocks, place it in the sun and watch for lizards to come and soak up the warmth of the stones. Toni's Tree House is an area of the Hamilton Garden for imaginative play that is used by children of all ages. So let your imagination turn your garden into an inspiring, enjoyable place for children.

–Linda Davis is program manager for the Hamilton Children's Garden at the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Child Friendly Gardening

A Five-Senses Walkabout with Grandma is an Eye-popping, Taste-Tempting Adventure

By Sharon Lovejoy

Text and drawings excerpted from "Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars" Copyright 2009 Sharon Lovejoy • Used by permission of Workman Publishing Co., Inc. New York • All Rights Reserved.

When you're sharing nature with a child, you'll find that even a short walk through your backyard will yield a crop of fresh discoveries and questions. Start a tradition of asking "I wonder what's going on outdoors today?" Then grab your grandchild's hand and step outside. Look under rocks or push aside leaves, and you're likely to find some roly-poly bugs, a beetle, or maybe a worm or two. Use your magnifying glass to look closely at a handful of soil or the insect-busy face of a sunflower or cosmos blossom. Move from sunny to shady spots to fine a variety of flowers, trees, bushes, and critters. You'll cultivate a new awareness and appreciation of even the tiniest happenings, and you'll give a gift of curiosity that lasts a lifetime.

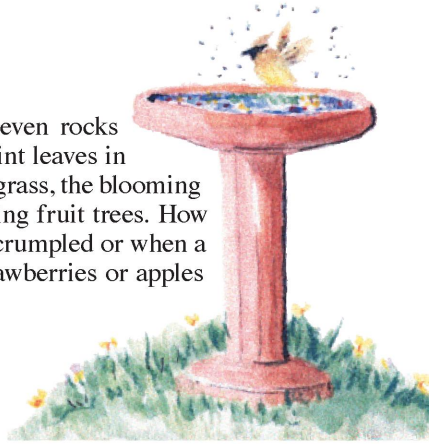
When my grandchildren were babies, I would carry then from plant to plant, tree to bush, letting them touch, see, smell, taste (only things I knew to be safe), and listen to the goings-on in the backyard. We didn't need to know the proper names of things; we just enjoyed experiencing them. Our walks became a tradition, just as the walks I shared with my grandmother became one of my most cherished memories. No matter your grandchild's age, now is the time for you to become a child-at-heart and reexamine the world from his or her perspective.

Stop and Listen

Close your eyes and listen! Try to identify and describe as many sounds as possible. Do you hear the wind through the needles and leaves of trees? Some trees have such distinct "voices" that when their leaves are windblown, we can recognize the kind of tree we're hearing. Stand near a pine and listen to the whispering of the needles. Listen to the wind rushing through cottonwood, poplar, or aspen leaves, which sound like crackling fires, or oaks, which sound list rustling taffeta skirts. Can you hear birdsong, hummingbird wings, bumblebees rumbling, grasshoppers snapping as they leap, dragon flies clattering together in battle, water dripping, children yelling, music playing, or cars honking? Ask your child, "What do you hear? Can you hear the …? Can you make that kind of sound?" Imitate the varying sounds and try to count how many there are.

Sniff

Forget about your dignity and lead your youngster on a snuffle, snort, and sniff walk around your yard, neighborhood, or a park. You'll sound like a dog on a trail, but you'll find scents everywhere that you may have overlooked—even rocks sometimes have a scent. Crush mint leaves in your hand. Sniff the newly mown grass, the blooming roses, or the perfume of blossoming fruit trees. How does a plant smell when a leaf is crumpled or when a twig is snapped? Do ripening strawberries or apples have a fragrance?



Taste

Visit areas of your yard, neighborhood, or a U-Pick farm, where there are edible herbs, fruits, or vegetables, and take time to taste and savor. Describe which of the five tastes you're experiencing. Is it sweet, sour, bitter, salty, or *umami* (Japanese for "delicious")? The *umami* taste is noticeable in the core flesh and seeds of a yummy, ripe tomato.

Look

Talk about the myriad colors and shapes you can see outdoors. Describe the varying colors: not just green, but chartreuse, lime, sage, silvery or olive—the nuances are endless. Use colored pencils or crayons to duplicate the objects and the colors in a nature journal or drawing pad. Don't worry about how the drawings look; just play with the colors and shapes. Look for natural patterns in rocks, leaves, shells, and even windrows of sand. Pick samples of differently shaped petals and leaves and bring them home to study or to paste into a nature journal.

Touch

Run little hands over velvety leaves like lamb's ears, rubbery succulents, tasseled grasses, suede moss, stubbly lawn, lichens, tree bark, flowers, and herbs. Dip your fingers in the water of last night's rain puddle. Talk about and sample the tickling, prickling, soft, ridged, pliable, stiff, crumpled, woody, smooth, flexible, warty, bristly, granular, wet and clumpy things surrounding you. Jot some quick notes in your nature journal about what you saw and how things felt when you touched them.

If this kind of close observation is new to you, too, you've given yourself (as well as your grandchild) a gift—you'll never go outdoors again without seeing and feeling things in a fresh way.

– Sharon Lovejoy was introduced to the wonders of nature by her Quaker grandmother Abigail Lovejoy, a botanist and an educator. As an adult, Sharon's passion for the natural world guided her to become an award-winning nature, gardening and children's book author and watercolor illustrator. For 15 years, starting in 1982, she ran Heart's Ease Herb Shop & Gardens in Cambria. A graduate of San Diego State University, she lives in California and Maine. Visit her web site at www.sharonlovejoy.com.

Child Friendly Gardening

Hollyhock Dolls and Secluded Hideouts Turn Gardens into Playgrounds

By Aenne Carver

"There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again," wrote Elizabeth Lawrence, a popular American garden designer in the 1950s.

Kids and gardening go together like peanut butter and jelly. Children love being outside and getting dirty. Discover activities to share in the garden and make memories. Feel your spirit ignite as you play with a child. Beyond letting go of ever-present chores, you may sow lifelong gardening enthusiasm.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Hollyhocks for Fun

Hollyhocks are flowers favored by children, bees, cottage gardeners and hummingbirds. They are just simply cute. At three to five feet tall, they tower over kids and hold loads of cheerful flowers around their thick stems. Best of all, they lend themselves to a fun project.

Children love making hollyhock flower dolls. To make one, first pick a hollyhock flower and turn it upside down. Then, take another hollyhock unopened bud for the head. This bud should be just opening with a sliver of color showing, because the color serves as the face. Attach this bud to the top of the upside down flower by running a toothpick up the middle, and securing the bud to the end. The open flower looks like a skirt, and the bud head can be tilted to seem haughty or friendly. Further adorn each doll with tiny flowers used like jewelry, or add leaves for clothing. White glue or straight pins easily attach such accessories.

Growing these old-fashioned favorites is easy, and seeds germinate practically all year, except during the summer heat. However, the optimal time to sow hollyhock seeds is early fall. In the spring, some nurseries carry six-packs of transplants. Choose from hollyhocks that are singles or doubles, and from a wide assortment of colors, ranging from white to almost black.

Hollyhocks are biennials and that means they will not flower their first year. However, they self sow abundantly, and soon you will have hollyhocks in different stages of life to ensure flowers every spring.

Hideouts for Garden Adventure

Children also are drawn to hideouts as bees flock to flowers. Trees make for ideal hideaways; but if you lack a big tree, you can still create a fort.

Try building a tepee structure out of chicken wire, and secure it with stout stakes or rebar to keep it upright. Alternatively, use simple but strong trellises or pieces of fencing to make an open three-sided structure. To form a leafy roof, run pieces of string to form a grid across the open roof to support a climbing vine. In fact, cover any style fort with climbing vines to provide camouflage, and to make it more attractive to children. The more interesting the vine is the better.

One fun choice is the snail vine (*Vigna caracalla* or *Phaseolus caracalla*) with lavender or yellowish flowers curled like escargot. This unusual vine is fast growing and attracts butterflies with fragrant flowers from midsummer into fall. The large flowers are named for their contorted upper petals that coil and resemble a snail shell, and children are intrigued by them. Tolerant of heat and a lover of full sun, this vine is a semi-tropical perennial. If your garden gets frost, the vine dies back to the ground. Remove dead foliage and it will come back in the spring from its roots. In protected areas, this vine stays green year round.

Cup and saucer vine (*Cobaea scandens*) is interesting because the flowers resemble a teacup on a saucer. This quick growing annual is a whimsical choice to cover a hideaway. The flowers come in white, purple and lavender. The fruit-like seedpods that form after the flowers also add fun. In hot inland areas of San Diego County, give this vine afternoon shade. In coastal gardens, it will tolerate full sun.

Sometimes gardens get too serious, and some of the joy is lost. Have fun in your garden, and let your inner child play.

–Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com, for a schedule of her talks and classes.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Hungry Sticks Invade Landscapes

By Vincent Lazaneo

Photo: David Kellum, Entomologist with the County Dept. of Agriculture

A strange looking insect from the other side of the world is damaging landscape plants in local neighborhoods. The exotic pest known as the Indian stick insect (*Carausius morosus)* is thin as a twig but has a big appetite. It hides during the day and emerges under the cover of darkness to feed on tender foliage. It likes a variety of landscape plants including azalea, blackberry, camellia, fuchsia, hawthorn, hibiscus, ivy, pittosporum, privet, pyracantha, raspberry and rose.

The first established population of Indian walking sticks in California was found during June 2001 in a residential neighborhood in La Jolla. Additional infestations have since been found in other areas of the county, including Carlsbad, Encinitas, and the San Diego neighborhoods of Pt. Loma, Mission Hills and Balboa Park. Infestations have also been found in other coastal communities as far north as San Francisco.

Adult Indian stick insects are about three inches long, wingless and light green to dark brown in color with a characteristic red mark at the base of the first pair of legs. Its body and appendages are long and slender. When disturbed, the insect drops to the ground and plays dead, drawing its legs and antennae close to its body to resemble a stick, hence its common name.

Indian stick insects are female and parthenogenic which means they reproduce without mating. One female can lay several hundred eggs over a period of about four-six months. The small brown eggs are produced continually and fall to the ground beneath the host plant. They take about three months or more to hatch, depending on temperature and moisture. Upon hatching, the nymphs, which look like tiny versions of the adult, grow by shedding their exoskeleton or skin several times.

In California, stick insects have few natural enemies and can develop large populations. They are masters of camouflage and often cause extensive damage without being noticed. They hide inside host plants during the day and are difficult to see because of their cryptic shape, coloration and tendency to remain motionless. They are active at night and chew holes in tender foliage. The holes are similar to those made by snails, grasshoppers, and some other chewing pests.

Control and Protect

To find out if stick insects are damaging a plant, look for the pest at night when it is active. You can also check plants during the day when stick insects are hiding. First, place a light colored cloth on the ground under a host plant. Then shake the plant vigorously to dislodge any insects clinging to the branches and look for them on the cloth. You can also check plants by spraying them with water from a hose. This will disturb concealed stick insects and cause some to climb onto the outer foliage where they can be seen more easily.

The best non-chemical way to control stick insects is to hand pick them from infested plants. This can be done at night when the pest is feeding or during the day if plants are first sprayed with water to flush the sticks out of their hiding places. You can step on the insects to kill them or drop them into a bucket filled with a little soapy water. Hand picking works best if it is done often and only a few plants are infested. Chemical control may be needed when a large number of plants are infested.

To effectively protect plants from damage, stick insects must be killed before they begin laying eggs. This can be accomplished by treating plants with an insecticide that leaves a toxic residue on foliage. Lightly spray the outer surface of infested plants in the late afternoon before the insects emerge to feed. Re-treatment should not be necessary for at least two months and no more than three treatments should be required annually. All plants that harbor stick insects should be treated at the same time. Better control will be attained if adjacent neighbors also treat infested plants on their properties.

Before you buy an insecticide, read the label to find out if it is registered to use on the plants you want to treat, especially if they are edible crops. The insecticide Spinosad (Green Light Lawn and Garden Spray) is effective against walking sticks. It breaks down quicker and is less harmful to beneficial insects than more persistent chemicals like acephate (Orthene), Carbaryl (Sevin) and products containing pyrethroids like Cyfluthrin (Bayer Rose & Flower spray).

–Vincent Lazaneo is urban horticulture advisor for UC Cooperative Extension.

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for March and April 2011

March Events

MARCH 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Neil Biggart will discuss orchid genetics.
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

MARCH 2

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
"Creating a Songbird Habitat" will be presented by Tom Meyers, former project executive at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: locations vary
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room, North County Fair, Escondido
More information: 760-727-7614

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

MARCH 3

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Bring your own lunch for this "Leadership Workshop" presented by Robin Pokorski.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: *californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict*

MARCH 4

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
St. Patrick's Day meeting and luncheon.
When: TBA
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Dr. Joel Ross, consulting rosarian from the California Coastal Rose Society will discuss "What to Do With Your Hands to Grow Roses."
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrance Dr., Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

MARCH 5

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Plant Sale and talk by Connie Beck on "Natives for Wildlife - Gardening for the Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bats" at 10:00 a.m.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Tree of Life Nursery, 33201 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano
More information: 949-728-0685; *www.cnpssd.org*

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanical Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503; *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

MARCH 7

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Palomar District NGC Designers will answer questions and create designs from the NGC Flower Show Handbook.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

MARCH 8

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

MARCH 9

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Karan Greenwald will share her extensive knowledge of heirloom tomatoes.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Dr. Loretta Bates will discuss "The Attack of the Root Weevil."
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
Where: Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd, Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

March 10

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Sadako Oehler, 858-278-5689

MARCH 12

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sdcss.net*

MARCH 13

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
Guest speaker Harry Hirao will address the group.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Recital Hall (near the Aerospace Museum), Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

MARCH 14

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Jim Mumford will discuss "Green Roofs and Living Walls."
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

MARCH 15

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Karan Cooper Greenwald teaches about soil preparation and the care of heirloom tomatoes.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.cnpssd.org*

MARCH 16

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Pruning and preparation for the growing season is the topic this evening.
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 Business meeting and speaker
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-942-1919

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

MARCH 17

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
Learn to attract more birds and butterflies to your garden with George Yackey.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: R. B. Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista, CA
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/chulavista*

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

Continued

MARCH 19

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE ANNUAL PLANT SALE
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Oceanside Walmart at Highway 78 and Jefferson
More information: Louise Ortega, 760-598-6571

■ TWO DAYS
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
43rd Annual Flower Show "Spring Beauty in Flowers": More than 50 flower arrangements and demonstrations from the different schools of Japanese cultural arts.
When: Saturday 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Room 101; Sunday 12:30–3:30 p.m. Room 104
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MARCH 21

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

MARCH 22

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

MARCH 23

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

MARCH 24

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
Tom Spellman speaks on "Backyard Orchard Culture."
When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117; *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
George Speer will discuss "Flower Arranging."
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Winn Room, Coronado Library, 640 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

MARCH 26

■ TWO DAYS
BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW
When: Friday 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Bonita/Sunnyside Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553; *http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html*

MARCH 28

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue, Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

MARCH 29

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
An 80th birthday celebration.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Land, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

April Events

APRIL 1

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
A guided horticultural and architectural tour of Balboa Park.
When: TBA
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"All About the Flower Show"
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrance Dr., Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

APRIL 2

■ TWO DAYS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY ANNUAL CUTTINGS SALE
Plumeria cuttings, planting demonstrations and books will be available for purchase at this free event. Cash or checks only; no credit cards.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503; *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

APRIL 4

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM MEETING
The "Ladies from Ensenada" will present creative, colorful designs.
When: 12:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

APRIL 5

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Ron Kaufmann will present a program about the "Orchids of Colombia."
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting, Room 104; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Room 101
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

APRIL 6

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: locations vary
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room, North County Fair, Escondido
More information: 760-727-7614

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

APRIL 7

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA "MEET THE MASTERS 2011"
Renowned floral designer Paula Pryke will share floral design trends and books. Valet parking is available for this lecture and tea reception.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect St., La Jolla
Cost: $55 VGCLJ members; $65 non-members
More information: *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

APRIL 9

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sdcss.net*

APRIL 10

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
This month's program will feature Jim Barrett.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

APRIL 11

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

APRIL 12

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Learn how to improve your photographic skills with Sonja Longley.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

APRIL 13

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Margaret Cook has planned a day trip for the group.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"An Old Fashioned Show & Tell," sharing ideas, tips, plants and tools.
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. General Meeting
Where: Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd, Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information*:* *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

April 16

■ TWO DAYS
CORONADO FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE
"Dig, Design and Dine"
When: 8:00 a.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Sunday
Where: Sprecklels Park, Coronado
Cost: Adults $5; children are admitted free
More information: *www.coronadoflowershow.com*

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE ANNUAL PLANT SALE
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Oceanside Walmart at Highway 78 and Jefferson
More information: Louise Ortega, 760-598-6571

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANT SALE
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot Street (east of Canon St.), San Diego
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW
When: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Where: Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO RARE FRUIT GROWERS PLANT SALE
When: Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

APRIL 18

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

APRIL 19

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
Gary Bulman will discuss miniature roses.
When: 6:00 p.m. Dinner; 7:00 p.m. Meeting
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfloral.org*

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.cnpssd.org*

APRIL 20

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Members discuss their favorite camellias.
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 General Meeting
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-942-1919

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: 858-748-8355

APRIL 21

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista, CA
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/chulavista*

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

APRIL 22

3 Days
PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
Orchid Show and Sale at The Flower Fields
When: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Where: 5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad, 92008
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

APRIL 23

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553; *http://affiliates.cssainc.org/palomar-cactus-and-succulent-society.html*

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB ANNUAL SPRING SHOW
When: Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

APRIL 26

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Tom Jesch will present "The Mediterranean Garden."
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Land, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

APRIL 27

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
Jackie Zhang, 2nd Master, will demonstrate flower arranging.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

APRIL 28

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA ART AND FLORAL DESIGN SHOW
Everyone is welcome to attend "Expressions in Art and Flowers".
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117; *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
"The Life of Bees" is presented by beekeeper Diana Bush.
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Winn Room, Coronado Library, 640 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

APRIL 29

■ SIX DAYS
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 2011 CONVENTION
Hosted by the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society
When: April 24–29, 2011
Where: Marriott Hotel Mission Valley, San Diego
More information: *http://www.sdcss.net/convention_daily.html*

APRIL 30

■ TWO DAYS
VISTA GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE
When: Saturday 12:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Brengle Terrace Park Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

Gardening Classes

Walter Andersen Nursery, Pt. Loma Gardening Class
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

Walter Andersen Nursery, Poway Gardening Class
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More Information:*www.walterandersen.com*

Water Conservation Garden Classes
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More Information: *www.thegarden.org;* 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR
Meet at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More Information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More Information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*

Continued

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More Information: *www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.shtml*; (858) 581-9959

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D. .
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More Information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

43rd Annual Japanese Ikebana
Flower Arrangements & Cultural Exhibition
"Spring Beauty in Flowers"
March 19 & 20, 2011 - 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Balboa Park, San Diego
Free Admission

IKEBANA DEMONSTRATIONS
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Saturday
Noon Wafu Kai School
1 PM Ikenobo School
2 PM Sogetsu School
3 PM Ohara School
Sunday
Noon Sogetsu School
1 PM Ichiyo School
2 PM Ohara School

JAPANESE CULTURAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS
Casa del Prado, Room 104
Sunday
12:30 PM Kimono Dressing
1:30 PM Origami and Otedama
2:30 PM Sumie
3:30 PM Koto Music

Ikebana International - San Diego Chapter 119

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
(858) 513-4900
FAX (858) 513-4790
Open 9-6, 7 days a week

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 224-8271
FAX (619) 224-9067
Open 8-5, 7 days a week

Free Garden Classes at both locations on Saturday mornings
www.walterandersen.com

Southern California Plumeria Society
2011 Plumeria Cutting Sale
Cutting Sale
Saturday, April 2nd
Sunday, April 3rd
Casa Del Prado, Room 101
10:00am – 4:00pm
MANY Different Varieties Available
Extensive Selection of Plumeria Care and Related Products
Knowledgeable Vendors and Volunteers
Demonstration Table with Plumeria Q&A
For Further Information, please refer to our website at:
www.southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com
SCPS – PO Box 20553 – El Cajon, CA 92021

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Specializing in Rare & Unusual Succulents & Cacti, Tropicals, Tillandsias, Crested & Variegated Plants, Caudiciform Succulents and other Abnormalities of the Plant World. Unique Handbuilt Ceramics, Vintage Pottery, Great Rocks & Garden Art.
2615 Congress Street
Old Town - San Diego
Hours: Noon to 6 pm, Wednesday thru Sunday
(619) 297-0077
10% off for all San Diego Floral Association Members

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684, 619-232-5762. Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2011

February 16

April 19

June 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

President
Sandra Dysart

Vice President (Programs)
Christie Wright

Vice President (Membership)
Lucy Kramer

Treasurer
Nancy Carol Carter

Recording Secretary
Gail DeFalco

Corresponding Secretary
Lucy Kramer

Historian
Diane Maher

Parliamentarian
Barbara Clark

DIRECTORS

Term 2009-2011
Cheryl Gaidmore
Suzanne Michele
Dian Walkenshaw

Term 2010-2012
Kay Harry
Thea Gurns
Suzanne Sorger

Term 2011-2013
Joan Blankenship
Meredith French
Bonnie Gebhardt

Arrangers Guild Liaison
Sharon Lowry

2011 AFFILIATES

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin
President: Lisa Lomax
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532
619-445-8352
www.chirp.org

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
President: Leslie Crawford
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92178-0188
619-435-8079
www.coronadofloralassoc.org

FRIENDS OF BALBOA PARK
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-2282
www.friendsofbalboapark.org

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Tour reservations: 949-497-0716
Information: 949-244-2010
www.hortensemillergarden.org

FRIENDS OF THE MARSTON HOUSE
c/o SOHO
2476 San Diego Ave.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327
www.marstonhouse.org
Friends@marstonhouse.org

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Kanzawa
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: George Speer
30861 Saddleback Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082-3848
760-749-9608
palomardirector@aol.com
http://californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2821
949-459-6094

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.
President/CEO: Julian Duval
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234-8901
www.sdbgf.org

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Department
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SEAWORLD OF CALIFORNIA
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109-7904
619-222-6363
www.seaworld.com/sandiego

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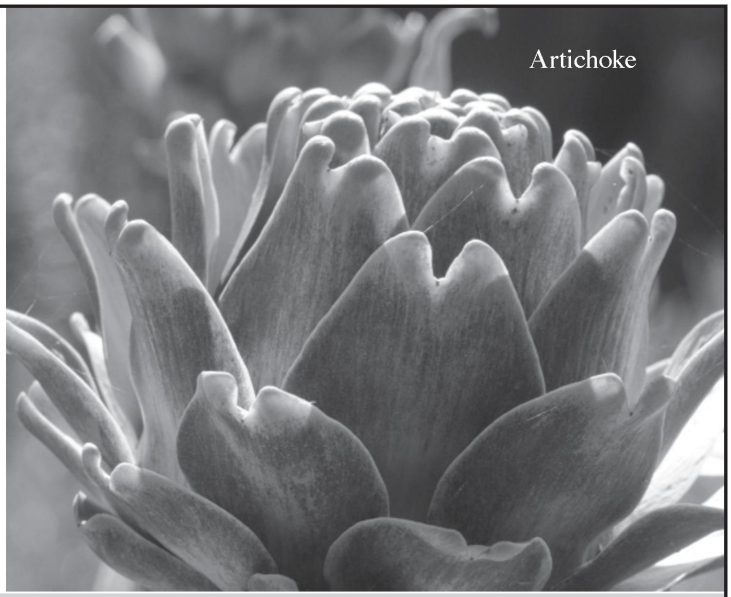
In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in March and April. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

March: Artichokes, asparagus, avocados, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, grapefruit, guavas, herbs, kale, kiwi, lemons, lettuce, limes, navel oranges, peas, potatoes, radishes, rhubarb, snap peas, spinach, strawberries, tangelos, tangerines, white turnips, winter squash and various cut flowers.

April: Avocados, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, cucumbers, grapefruit, guavas, herbs, kale, kiwi, lemons, limes, lettuce, navel oranges, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, scallions, snap peas, spinach, strawberries, tangelos, white turnips, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.



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Normal Heights saw a surge in the creation of community gardens almost 25 years ago. This article describes an effort to bring children and adults together for what at the time was a unique "cross-generational" community garden. This garden lasted just six years, but a new garden was later established at Adams Elementary School in the same Normal Heights neighborhood. –Nancy Carol Carter

January-February 1987
Children's Garden in Normal Heights

By Patricia Getzel

On April 4, 1986, the Normal Heights Community Development Corporation (NHCDC) sponsored a ground breaking ceremony for the only cross-generational cooperative garden currently operating in San Diego. The children involved in the project have senior citizen sponsors who instruct them on how to grow vegetables. Twenty-nine elementary school children and seven seniors participated in the gardening efforts.

City Councilwoman Gloria McColl, School Board President Susan Davis, the Principal of Adams Elementary School, John Jones and the school children assisted with the opening day festivities.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for children in Mid-city to learn not only about gardening but about some of their older neighbors as well," said Councilwoman Gloria McColl. "It should add to even greater community spirit in Normal Heights." Susan Davis stated that is was a way of extending learning outside of the classroom. "Not only will the children in the program benefit but so will their families and friends." The garden is located next to Adams Elementary School which the children in this program attend.

This is the third garden site sponsored by the NHCDC over the past year. The first two sites accommodate 17 gardeners. During the first year, the average gardener was able to harvest approximately 75-80 pounds of vegetables or nearly 1500 pounds in total raised by the gardeners.

"Hopefully, we will be able to obtain some financial assistance over the summer to help the Children's Garden," stated Patricia Getzel, Executive Director of the NHCDC. "The garden program is an important vehicle in promoting individual self-esteem as well as strengthening community bonds."

Currently the program has borrowed tools but hopes to purchase some permanent equipment. The Adams School P.T.A. approved a donation of one hundred dollars for seeds and hoses to get the program started. In addition, plans included a Harvest Potluck Dinner, contests for the children, and the publication of a children's gardening handbook in several different languages. Adams Elementary School has a total of over a dozen languages spoken as the primary language of attending students.

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- **April 2nd** Red Hat Ladies Day
- **April 2nd - 3rd** Arts & Crafts Fair
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- **April 16th - 17th** Arts & Crafts Fair
- **April 17th - Canon Photo Workshop**
- **April 23rd** Blues Day
- **April 22nd - 24th** Orchid Festival
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- **May 8th** Mother's Day

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